

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**  
**Office of Archives and History**  
**Department of Cultural Resources**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**Mars Hill College Historic District**

Mars Hill, Madison County, MD0052, Listed 9/12/2006  
Nomination by Davyd Foard Hood  
Photographs by Davyd Foard Hood, June 2006



Estella Nissen Montague Building

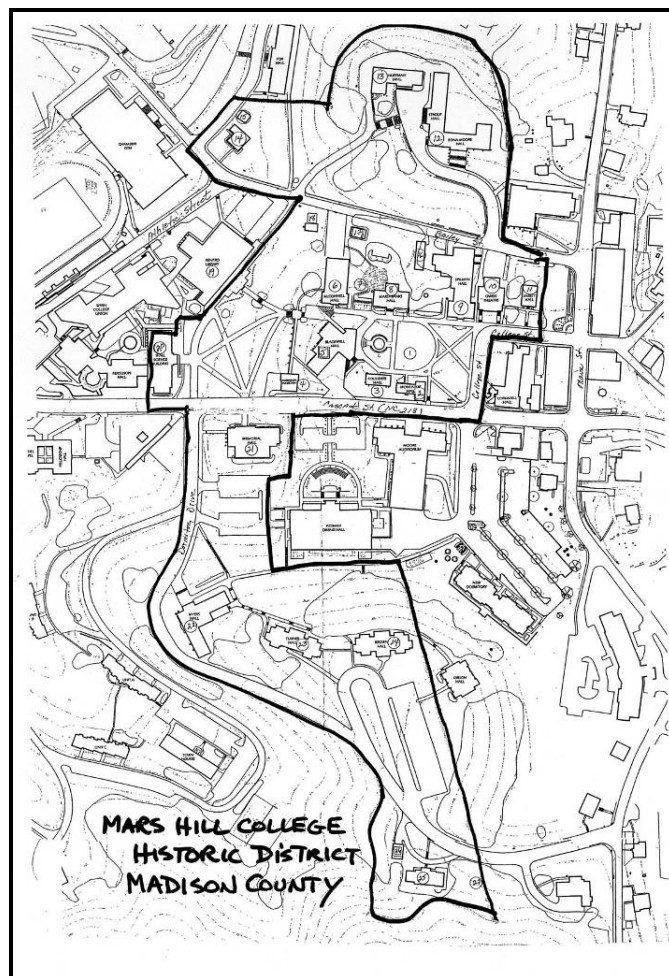


Moore Hall/Marshbanks Hall and McConnell Hall on right





Charles M. Wall Science Building



Historic District Map

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of property**

historic name Mars Hill College Historic District

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

Located between Bailey and Cascade Streets and on the north and south sides,  
street & number respectively, of those streets not for publication N/A  
city or town Mars Hill vicinity N/A  
state North Carolina code NC county Madison code 115 zip code 28754

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination  
request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic  
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  
X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  
\_\_\_\_\_ nationally X statewide \_\_\_\_\_ locally. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional  
comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_ entered in the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the  
National Register

\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the  
National Register

\_\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mars Hill College Historic District  
Name of Property

Madison County, North Carolina  
County and State

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

### Category of Property

(Check only one box)

☐ building(s)  
☒ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>19</u>    | <u>4</u>        | buildings  |
| <u>1</u>     | <u>0</u>        | sites      |
| <u>1</u>     | <u>0</u>        | structures |
| <u>1</u>     | <u>0</u>        | objects    |
| <u>22</u>    | <u>4</u>        | Total      |

### Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC  
EDUCATION  
EDUCATION  
EDUCATION  
RELIGION  
RELIGION  
RECREATION AND CULTURE  
RECREATION AND CULTURE

Sub: single dwelling  
college  
library  
education-related  
religious facility  
church-related residence  
theater  
monument/marker

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION  
EDUCATION  
EDUCATION  
RECREATION AND CULTURE  
RECREATION AND CULTURE

Sub: college  
library  
education-related  
theater  
monument/marker

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

|                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Colonial Revival</u>  | <u>Bungalow/Craftsman</u> |
| <u>Classical Revival</u> |                           |
| <u>Moderne</u>           |                           |

### Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

|            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| foundation | <u>Brick</u>   |
| roof       | <u>Asphalt</u> |
| walls      | <u>Brick</u>   |
|            | <u>Stone</u>   |
|            | <u>Wood</u>    |
| other      | <u>Glass</u>   |
|            | <u>Wood</u>    |

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet

Mars Hill College Historic District  
Name of Property

Madison County, North Carolina  
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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☒ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

☒ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ B removed from its original location.

☐ C a birthplace or a grave.

☐ D a cemetery.

☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ F a commemorative property.

☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Education

### Period of Significance

1856-1955

### Significant Dates

1892 1937

1907 1940

1919 1955

1935

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Moore, Robert Lee

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

**Architect/Builder** Gaines, Henry Irven

Parmalee, Martin Egbert

Humphries, C. Gilbert

Smith & Carrier

Poor, Clayton I--landscape architect

Beck, Briggs and Anderson--builders

Rogers, John

Roberts, Wayne Douglas

Barber & McMurray

## Areas of Significance

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS)

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary Location of Additional Data

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: North Carolina Division of Archives & History,

Mars Hill College Historic District

Name of Property

Madison County, North Carolina

County and State

Raleigh, North Carolina

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 27.07 acres

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing  
1 17 359800 3965915  
2 17 360080 3965940

Zone Easting Northing  
3 17 360080 3965150  
4 17 359880 3965150  
X See continuation sheet.

## Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

## Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Davyd Foard Hood

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 15 March 2006

street & number Isinglass, 6907 Old Shelby Road telephone 704/462-1847

city or town Vale state NC zip code 28168

## 12. Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

## Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Dr. Dan Gay Lunsford, President, Mars Hill College/Mr. Ronald F. Martin, Chairman

name Mars Hill College Board of Trustees

street & number Post Office Box 370/107 Woodsway Lane telephone 828/689-1141/828-437-7591

city or town Mars Hill/Morganton state NC zip code 28754/28655

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

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Madison County, North Carolina

### 7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

#### Overview

(Note: This introductory overview provides a narrative description of the physical development of the school from 1856 through the period of significance (1856-1955). The Campus Grounds (#1) contains the physical description of the district.)

The Mars Hill College Historic District comprises the historic buildings and grounds of the oldest surviving educational institution of higher learning on its original site in western North Carolina. The college is located at the center of the small mountain town of Mars Hill, whose physical development followed, and then paralleled that of the college. The town's small business district developed along Main Street, at the immediate east edge of the campus. Mars Hill, with a population of 1,735 in 2004, is located about two miles inside the Madison/Buncombe County line and about eighteen miles north of Asheville. It is the largest town in largely rural Madison County, whose seat, Marshall, located ten miles to the southwest on the French Broad River, had a population of 833 in 2004. Much of Madison County, with a population of 19,951 in 2004, is occupied by the woodlands of the Pisgah National Forest.

The historic district occupies 27.07 acres of the campus of 167.52 acres and is situated on gently rolling terrain amidst higher hills and mountains which stretch in every direction. The boundary of the district is irregular in shape and generally covers the center and most of the east side of the college campus. On the south side of Cascade Street, Memorial Library (#20), flanked by newer construction to the east and west, is the link between the campus quadrangle and the historic resources in the south central part of the campus. It is enclosed by a combination of legal property lines and others which accommodate street lines, topographical features, and later construction on the campus so as to define the site and setting of the historic resources. Twenty-two of the district's twenty-six resources contribute to its significance. Fourteen (#2-4, 6, 8-10, 12-13, 19-23) of the nineteen contributing buildings are major academic and dormitory buildings while three (#11, 14, 24) of the resources are college-related houses and the other two (#15-16) are secondary frame buildings. The 1935 amphitheater (#7) is a contributing structure and the memorial of "Joe the Slave" (#26), erected in 1932 to honor a slave who served as collateral for the college's first building, is a contributing object. The grounds of the historic district (#1) constitute a contributing historic site. The district's four noncontributing buildings do not compromise its significance. Blackwell Hall (#5), the main administrative building completed in 1978 in the heart of the historic district, defers to its site and setting with its asymmetrical design while maximizing the views to Bailey and Walnut Mountains. The three other noncontributing buildings, a small psychology lab (#17), a twice-relocated nineteenth-century log cabin (#18), and a ca. 1967 garage (#25) at Edgewood House, are unobtrusive.

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Mars Hill College came into existence in 1856, when the school opened as the French Broad Baptist Institute in a two-story brick building erected on a lot of about four acres donated by Edward Carter. The antebellum campus was a part of the Carter farm and even today it is bordered in part by lands held by Carter descendants. The school was renamed and chartered as Mars Hill College in 1859. For the first decades of its existence, largely until the 1910s when president Robert Lee Moore initiated an aggressive effort toward accreditation as a junior college, the school functioned as a high school and preparatory school for students in this mountainous region. Mars Hill College awarded its first junior college diploma in 1922, and in 1926 received accreditation as a junior college by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

For most of that period, the academical village surrounding the campus grew into a community with a small commercial center, essentially making the town and college one place. Frame houses were erected along the north, west, and south edges of the four-acre campus and a couple of business houses were built at its east edge along what became today's Main Street.

Mars Hill College operated in one classroom building until 1892 when a smaller newly-built two-story brick building, standing immediately south of the earlier building, was placed in service. With the demolition of the school's deteriorated antebellum main building in 1910, this plain, simply-finished late-nineteenth century single-pile classroom building, now known as Founders Hall (#3), is the oldest surviving building in the district.

The essential character of the Mars Hill College Historic District was shaped during the tenure of Dr. Robert Lee Moore, who served as president of Mars Hill from 1897 to 1938. Eleven of the major academic and residential buildings in the historic district were either erected or planned during his presidency, and it was during this period that the school assumed a physical presence and identity in the town as a college campus, distinct from the surrounding residential community and the business blocks on Main Street. There is no overstatement in defining the personality of the campus as Mr. Moore's legacy for, in fact, he is the single individual most responsible for its cohesive appearance. As he began building the school after the turn of the twentieth century, acquiring adjoining lots and tracts for expansion and planning the construction of necessary additional buildings, he sought the services of professional architects for the design of the college's new buildings. The architect/designers of the first two brick buildings erected during his presidency, a now lost auditorium erected at the east end of the four-acre quadrangle and Treat Dormitory (#9) completed in 1907, are not confirmed; however, the Colonial Revival, gambrel-roof styling of Treat Dormitory indicates a learned hand.

Beginning in 1908, when the college trustees hired Martin Egbert Parmalee, a Knoxville architect, to design Moore Hall (#8), the architects for the surviving college buildings are known. C. Gilbert Humphries, a Winston-Salem architect, designed the rustic stone Montague Building



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(#2), completed in 1919, and the Asheville firm of (Richard Sharp) Smith and (Albert Heath) Carrier designed the classically-styled McConnell Gymnasium (#6) of 1924. Mr. Parmalee's firm also designed Melrose (#22) and Brown (#23) Halls, spare Georgian Revival-style dormitories completed in 1924 and 1925, respectively. All of these two-story on basement brick buildings complement each other, and are similar in their scale, materials, size, and finish, except for the Montague Building and Robinson Infirmary whose bold stone masonry continues to impress.

The larger part of Mr. Moore's genius and its long-term impact on the architectural character of the historic campus, however, came in the early 1930s with his choice of Henry Irven Gaines (1900-1986), then in practice in Asheville, as the college architect. Mr. Gaines, either individually or as a member of Six Associates, of which he was a principal founder in 1940, served as college architect from 1932 until 1970. His architectural skill is emphatically visible in the appearance of the historic campus as the designer of six contributing historic buildings (#4, 12-13, 19-21) erected between 1935 and 1955 and for his renovations to Treat Dormitory/Spilman Hall (#9). In a stroke of inspiration he designed the Robinson Memorial Infirmary (#4) as a well-positioned pendant to the Montague Building, giving the earlier building a counterpart that in no way diminishes its uniqueness. He next produced the plans for the Edna Corpening Moore Hall (#12), a girls residence hall, whose three-story Georgian design, reduced to the essentials of form with a minimum of well-placed ornament, became a formula that he repeated on the Stroup Hall extension of the building and again on Huffman Hall (#13) and Myers Hall (#21) completed in 1947 and 1955, respectively. Mr. Gaines' only significant departure from this formula was his Moderne-style Wall Science Building (#19), completed in 1940, whose scale and detailing is nevertheless sympathetic to the then existing campus buildings. He returned to a version of his stream-lined classical, or modern Georgian vocabulary for the design of Memorial Library (#20), finished and occupied in 1955. In 1977, seven years after he retired from Six Associates, his former colleagues designed Blackwell Hall (#5).

The appearance and character of the historic district owe also to Mr. Moore's decision on the placement of buildings and his long term views on the expansion of the campus beyond the original four-acre quadrangle. Mr. Moore focused his attention on the historic quadrangle and its immediate precincts when he set about adding buildings for the slowly growing school. He more than doubled the size of the campus in 1901 with the purchase of a six-acre parcel which carried fully along the south and west sides of the old quad and thus gained a long frontage along the road to Marshall (today's NC 213, Cascade Street). He then turned to the acquisition of lots on the north side of the quadrangle which was then bordered by a public street linking Main Street with Bailey Street (closed since ca. 1978). Given circumstances, the construction of Treat Dormitory for men on the north side of that street and facing onto the quadrangle in 1906-07 was expected, as the college then had two frame dormitories for women, Spilman Home (demolished by ca. 1937) and Treat Annex (burned in 1977), on the site now occupied by Blackwell Hall

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(#5). Mr. Moore resolved to locate all the classroom, library, and other administrative functions of the school on and around the expanded quadrangle, which he did through the planning for Wall Science Building (#19) in the mid 1930s and to look to the then privately held lands to the south of the school as sites for future dormitories. In 1923 John Robert Sams donated a large tract on the south side of the school that became the site of two male dormitories, Melrose and Brown Halls (#22-23), and Edgewood House (#24) in the mid 1920s. In a conscious decision in the 1930s to separate new housing for girls from the men's quarters, promoted by Hoyt Blackwell who chaired college's Enlargement Program and succeeded Mr. Moore in 1938, the school acquired land on the hillside north of the campus from Ashbel Edward Carter. That acreage became the site of Edna Corpening Moore Hall (#12), and its extension, Stroup Hall.

Lastly, after Mr. Moore's retirement in 1938, the college trustees acquired four existing buildings that were placed in use by the college and comprise a part of the historic district. In 1946 Ashbel Edward Carter sold his one-and-a-half-story frame bungalow and its dependency (#14-15), then at the northwest edge of the campus, to the college (Madison Deeds, 73/356). Since its inception Mars Hill College has enjoyed a close relationship with the local Baptist congregation. For many years, the pastor of Mars Hill Baptist Church was usually a professor at the school and the students attended services at the church standing immediately beside Treat Dormitory (#9). In 1953 as the church was building an imposing new edifice, a block to the north and also adjoining the campus, the college trustees acquired the Classical Revival-style Mars Hill Baptist Church (#10) and its adjoining pastorium (#11) which they also placed in college use.

The character and appearance of the Mars Hill College Historic District reflect the evolution of the school from 1892 to 1955 and its growing presence as an identifiable institution on a campus whose separateness became increasingly visible within the town. Even so, the college has never been set apart by walls, fences, or any other physical barriers from the surrounding residential and business areas. What does set the college apart in Mars Hill is the size and institutional character of its academic and residential buildings, on expansive tree-shaded grass-covered grounds forming its campus, which have no counterpart in the small town. Both Bailey Street and Cascade Street (NC 213) carry through the historic campus on an east/west axis and link Main Street with the western environs of Mars Hill and beyond. The college's principal academic and administrative buildings are located in the quadrangle area between those streets, with dormitories located on the low hillsides to the north and south respectively. The downtown commercial blocks border the east edge of the historic district, woodlands enclose the campus on the south and southwest, while the college's newer buildings and facilities are located to the southeast, west, and northwest. Other short lengths of the district boundary adjoin residential areas of Mars Hill. Within its boundary the major buildings of the historic district are of brick construction, except for Montague Building (#2) and the Robinson Infirmary (#4), which are stone, and the Carter-Humphrey Cottage (#14) and Edgewood House (#24) that are frame residences. All enjoy simple, well-placed ornament and refinements which impart presence to the

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buildings individually and to their collective character as a group. All of the buildings are likewise well-maintained and all enjoy a remarkable degree of integrity, except for Melrose and Brown Halls (#22-23), and the Carter-Humphrey Cottage (#14), which were substantially renovated in 2001-02 and 2005, respectively. Altogether the buildings of the Mars Hill College Historic District reflect the growing fortunes of a small college in a small town where stewardship and the slow, steady pace of its growth have assured its survival and the survival of this important collection of buildings.

The historic resources at Mars Hill College Historic District contribute to its significance if they were constructed during the period of significance and retain sufficient historic integrity. Non-contributing resources are those buildings that post-date the period of significance or were altered to the degree that they no longer reflect their historic appearance.

### Inventory List

1. Campus Grounds  
1856--  
Contributing site

From 1856 until 1874 the grounds of Mars Hill College consisted entirely of the four-acre quadrangle donated by Edward Carter. In 1874 the eastern half of the four-acre tract was conveyed to Lodusky Dothula (Carter) Sams, a daughter of Edward Carter and the wife of John Robert Sams. From 1874 until 1901 the college occupied the western half of the Carter gift. A documentary photograph of the school, made ca. 1898-1900 and looking west from a point on or about the 1874 division line, shows the original building, Founders Hall (#3), and the (now lost) frame house that became the Spilman Home for Girls. These early buildings stood on a grass covered campus with only two trees of any presence and a dozen or more that had been recently planted and fitted with simple wood braces to keep them upright. Two paths in the form of an "X" appear to have connected the corners of the reduced, two-acre quad, with their crossing off the southeast corner of the original building. Given the history of the school, there is reason to believe the newly-planted trees might represent Dr. Moore's first attempts at campus improvement.

One of the earliest known records of his views on the campus grounds appears in the account of his report to the trustees on 6 May 1910. The improvements he advocated for the future included "changing the road through the college grounds, beautifying the grounds, and planning to have them more private." In the 1920s, following on the demolition of the original antebellum building, Dr. Moore succeeded to a degree in his plans for the grounds. An unsigned, undated "General Plan of the Campus," published in the *Mars Hill College Quarterly* in June 1918, shows an oval, grass-covered green, encircled by walks, in the quadrangle between Founders

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Hall (#3) and Moore Hall (#8). Later, in April 1920, the trustees appointed a committee "with power to act to concrete the street from the Square to Treat Annex." That work had apparently not been completed in May 1922 when another "concrete road" committee was appointed. A documentary photograph of ca. 1922-1925 shows the concrete street, lesser in width than a conventional town street, with (either gravel or) concrete walks encircling the green and another concrete walk carrying in a straight line between the street and Treat Dormitory. The essential form of the oval green survives to the present and remains a critical landscape feature of the college quadrangle.

In addition to his own landscape initiatives as president Dr. Moore's influence on the development of the campus and its appearance came through the appointment of a Buildings and Grounds Committee. Possibly the first such committee was appointed on 28 April 1920. Thereafter much of the work on campus, in the way of new buildings, repairs to older facilities, and landscape improvements came through this committee and any sub-committees as necessary. This committee worked closely with Dr. Moore and with Bryson H. Tilson (1902-1995), who, with his employment in 1928, became the college's first superintendent of buildings and grounds. On 19 January 1926 the committee reported that "special landscape work had been done." A year later, on 25 May 1927, William C. McConnell advised, as chair of the committee, that "the grounds surrounding the boys dormitories (#22-23) be leveled up and graded and sowed in blue grass." The next May the trustees charged the committee with addressing the needs for sidewalks and lighting leading from the campus to the boys' dormitories. The grounds of these buildings have changed little since then, except for the growth of trees.

Two actions in the 1930s proved critical to the development and historic appearance of the campus grounds. The first matter, considered by the trustees in May 1932, concerned closing the public street, College Street, which lay along the north edge of the quadrangle and linked the town's Main Street with the Mars Hill High School and a group of faculty residences, including those of Dr. Moore and Professor John Angus McLeod, which stood to the northwest. The buildings and grounds committee was advised to address the matter. In the event the road was closed to public use once improvements were made to a farm road/path that was developed and paved as present-day Bailey Street. College Street effectively became a short private campus avenue, terminating in a circle just west of McConnell Gymnasium. In 1951 this campus avenue was paved with asphalt and fitted with sidewalks on both sides. It functioned as a private college lane until ca. 1978 when vehicular traffic was removed from the quadrangle, the paving was taken up, and the roadbed was incorporated into the larger greensward that survives today as the college quadrangle.

On 30 May 1935, the buildings and grounds committee made an extended report recommending the removal of the Spilman Home and the relocation of the Treat Annex, the construction of a science building immediately west of the Robinson Infirmary (#4), then under construction, the

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building of a new girls dormitory, and that “the campus be extended westward to the present tennis court and that the building along either side be kept in a straight line and thus present a symmetrical appearance.” The spirit of the report was initially followed, but soon Hoyt Blackwell, who succeeded Mr. Moore as president in 1938, guided Mars Hill College along a more farsighted plan, expanding the college facilities to the north and west, beyond the historic quadrangle. It was also in 1935 that the incline on the north side of the quadrangle, between McConnell Gymnasium and Moore Hall, was developed by Mr. Tilson and a crew of students as the amphitheater (#7) and a screen of white pine trees was planted as a backdrop, screening the site from traffic along Bailey Street.

The final document bearing upon the historic grounds of Mars Hill College is the site plan prepared as a part of the construction drawings for Memorial Library (#20) in spring 1954. It reflects the college and its grounds very near the end of the period of significance in 1955. (A photocopy of the site plan is included in this nomination as Exhibit A.) All of the surviving historic buildings appear on the site plan, except for Carter-Humphrey Cottage and its dependency (#14-15), as do two others, the auditorium and the Treat Annex, which burned in 1961 and 1977, respectively.

Admitting the loss of those buildings and the construction of Blackwell Hall (#5), and given the tremendous growth in the college over the last half-century, the grounds of the college have remained surprisingly little changed, when compared to the 1954 plan. The principal one being the full closure of College Street and the incorporation of its path into the quadrangle. The path of an unnamed college drive linking Bailey and Marshall (now Cascade) streets, and carrying on the east front of the Bridges and Wall memorial buildings, survives today as a pedestrian walkway. The area lying east of those buildings and west of McConnell, Blackwell, and Robinson, was grass-covered then and remains so now but with a new pattern of walkways making up a cross within a square. Today’s Dormitory Drive reflects a combination of earlier roadways, seen on the 1954 plan, and new linkages.

The grounds of the Mars Hill College Historic District, including the site and setting of its historic resources, comprise 27.07 acres of the 167.52-acre overall campus. Today the grounds of the historic campus are nearly all grass-covered and much of their area is tree-shaded, including both evergreen and deciduous trees. Shrubs appear as foundation plantings, as specimen plants, and as shrubberies and borders. The walkways throughout the grounds are mostly concrete and often incorporate steps at subtle and more distinct changes in grade. These flights are often enclosed in low brick or concrete sides that integrate them with grade. The most distinctive hard feature of the landscaped grounds at Mars Hill are a series of appealing stone retaining walls, edgings, and borders that were laid from the 1930s into the 1960s. Most of this stone masonry was crafted by Joe Wesley Mace (1918-1976), a son of Gudger Mace, who was engaged by Bryson H. Tilson and may well have worked on the amphitheater (#7). The stone wall carrying



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along the north side of Marshall (now Cascade) Street is among the earliest of his works that include the retaining walls enhancing the dormitory grounds on the north side of Bailey Street, a long retaining wall extending north from the Robinson Infirmary to a pedestrian plaza, stonework along Dormitory Drive, and other features that ease, smooth, and accommodate changes in grade. Mr. Mace's son David (b. 1942) assisted his father on the Dormitory Drive work and was later the stonemason for the Broyhill Chapel (1988-89) that stands just outside the district boundary.

2.      Estella Nissen Montague Building  
         C. Gilbert Humphries, architect  
         1919-1933  
         Contributing building

Arguably the most eye-catching building on the campus of Mars Hill College, this diminutive one-story with mezzanine T-plan stone building was erected in two stages. The original block, the stem of the present "T," was designed in 1917 by C. Gilbert Humphries, a Winston-Salem architect, as the college's fireproof library. The building was the partial gift of Colonel Henry Montague (1857-1939) in honor of his wife Estella Nissen (18\_\_-1954), the daughter of George Elias Nissen, an owner and proprietor of the celebrated wagon manufacturing concern in Winston-Salem. Stone for the library was donated by Alfred Sprinkle, a college trustee, and hauled from nearby California Creek. It is said to have been laid up by a mason simply identified as "Mr. Smith." The four carved and dressed granite tablets flanking the entrance came from another source. Although the inscription on the panel to the west of the door indicates the building was dedicated in 1918, the official dedicatory ceremony occurred on 1 May 1919.

While the building represented an important improvement in the college's library facilities, needs outpaced available space and in 1924 a mezzanine was installed in the tall one-story building. This addition offered only temporary relief and in the late 1920s an addition was considered; however, it was not undertaken and completed until 1933. This rectangular block on the east end of the original building, the top of the "T," was also designed by Mr. Humphries as part of a two-stage addition, with a complementing wing to be added across the west end of the 1919 block whereby the library would have an "H" plan. The west wing was never built, and the college library remained here in increasingly cramped quarters until 1955 when Memorial Library (#20) was completed. Since 1955 the Montague building has housed various institutional offices, and since 1979 its principal occupant has been the Rural Life Museum with exhibits developed by the college historian Richard Dillingham. In 2006 the building is slated to be occupied by the Madison County visitors center.

The picturesque elevations of the Montague library are laid up in uncoursed stones of varying size with deeply-set mortar giving it the appearance of a dry-laid masonry building. Its two-feet

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thick walls are fitted with a string course at the top of the main level which serves, in turn, as the base of the slightly recessed mezzanine. The mezzanine is finished as a parapet and conceals the flat roof. The façade of the original block, facing north onto the campus quadrangle, has a recessed doorway in the shallow, projecting center bay; the lintel above the double-leaf oak door is inscribed "Estella Nissen Montague." Tall, single, eighteen-pane metal windows in the flanking bays are surmounted by a trio of small square six-pane metal windows in the mezzanine level. The north end of the projecting addition on the east has three tall metal windows centered on the main level with small square corresponding windows in the mezzanine. This general, but unequal symmetry distinguishes the building's other elevations where tall windows are complemented by multiple windows in the mezzanine that function as a clerestory. A secondary entrance is set in the east elevation while a service door into the basement, under the addition, is centered on its south end. An engaged stone chimney is positioned in the southwest corner of the addition and rises well above the parapet wall. The interior of the Montague building retains elements of its original finish which have been largely overlaid with exhibit panels and interpretive displays including a stone faux fireplace.

3.      Founders Hall  
         1891-93; renovated 1990  
         Contributing building

Today, a century after its construction, the appearance of this modest two-story brick building provides little visible clue to its meaning in the history of the college. From its opening until 1892, when a portion of this building was put into service, the college was housed in a single large two-story brick school building. In 1890s, when a crisis developed and the future of Mars Hill became unsettled, concern was resolved in part by the election of Thomas McDowell Hufham as president. This building is both the single building erected during his brief tenure (1890-1893) as president and the oldest surviving college building on the campus. Simply known as a classroom building, or the Music Building for most of its life, it was renamed Founders Hall in 1978. In 1990 the building was renovated and most of its visible fabric and finish, excepting the brick walls, date to that project.

The construction of the building was a community effort. The brick were hand-made and fired in a nearby kiln largely through the efforts of the Sams family (McLeod, 126). Minutes of the trustees for 19 May 1891 show passage of a motion that "J. S. Yeodes was requested to draw a design for the new building now in erection." In December 1891 Lee B. Ramsey was put in charge of building; however, work stalled, and in August 1893 George G. Tillery, who was already at work here, was further engaged to finish the building (McLeod, 126). In about the 1980s, the descendants of J. Richard Smith (1860-1905) erected a plaque beside the main entrance honoring his work as a "Bricklayer;" however, his association with the building is unconfirmed.

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The rectangular building, single-pile in plan, and covered by a hip roof of asphalt shingles, is built of oversized orange-red brick laid up in a one-to-five bond. The door and window openings have flat sills and segmental-arched heads made up of paired rows of header brick. The elevations enjoy a general symmetry but some variance. The doorway opening onto the quadrangle is centered on the north elevation which has four bays on the first story and five (corresponding) windows on the second level. A simple hood with patterned-tin shingles protects the replacement six-panel door while replacement one-over-one metal sash occupy the window openings. The east and west ends are two bays wide and the rear elevation has a four-bay division. The replacement door, windows, and a skim coat of cement applied to the base of the building for weatherproofing were part of the renovation whereby the interior of the building was completely remodeled for faculty offices.

4. Dr. W. F. Robinson Memorial Infirmary  
Henry Irven Gaines, architect  
1935  
Contributing building

Located just off the southwest corner of the quadrangle, this rustic stone building was also erected as a memorial. Following the death of her husband, Dr. Willard Filmore Robinson (1868-1933), Flora Harding (Eaton) Robinson (1881-1944) donated \$2,500 to the college for the erection of an infirmary to bear his name. Dr. Robinson had been the college physician (1929-1933) and a long-time trustee (1898-1933) of Mars Hill; at the time of the gift Mrs. Robinson was chairman of the school's mathematics department. The faculty is said to have subscribed an equal sum and the necessary additional funds were raised. The building was completed in 1935 at a cost of \$11, 429 (McLeod, 240-241). The architect for the building was Henry Irven Gaines (1900-1986) who later would design five other buildings in the district (#12-13, #19-21) and additions to Spilman Hall (#9). In his obituary he is described as having been "architect for Mars Hill College from 1932 to 1970."

The two-story-on-basement building is essentially rectangular in plan; however, it gains architectural felicity through subtle means in addition to its appealing uncoursed masonry construction. The corners of the building, instead of rising in a straight line from ground to parapet, taper inward as the elevations rise and impart a visual weightiness to the building. On the five-bay side elevations, convention is altered by inseting the center and southernmost two bays about three feet behind the plane of the two north bays. Also, the randomness of the uncoursed masonry is given a certain order through the use of a horizontal string course that engages the sills of the second story windows and a second string course that effectively serves as the cap of the parapet.

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The symmetrical five-bay north front elevation has a recessed center entrance fitted with a double-leaf oak door. A granite panel above the entrance is inscribed "Dr. W. F. Robinson Memorial Infirmary." The rectangular openings to either side contain paired eight-pane metal casement windows below fixed eight-pane transoms. On the second story the corresponding shorter openings again contain paired eight-pane casement windows with four-pane transoms. The east and west side elevations repeat this pattern as does the fenestration on the south elevation except that the center openings in the back wall are twice as wide and incorporate sidelights. The first-story openings have poured-in-place concrete sills as do the basement windows on the north, west, and south elevations. The window openings on the façade have lintels composed of vertically positioned stones, whereas the openings on the other three elevations have no visible lintels. The basement openings contain paired six-pane casement windows. On the west elevation there is also a secondary center entrance to the infirmary, with steps that rise to the south to an open stoop, and a door opening into the basement. The interior of the infirmary has a center hall plan on each level and remains virtually unaltered, retaining many original fittings and furnishings.

5.      Blackwell Hall  
         Six Associates, architects  
         1978  
         Noncontributing building

Beginning with its completion in 1906, the Treat Annex to the Spilman Home, a two-story weatherboarded frame building, occupied this important site at the west end of the college quadrangle. The annex originally contained an assembly room, the college dining hall and kitchen, and laundry facility; however, most of these functions were relocated during the interwar period. The perceived under-utilization of this important site, by a once-useful but now outdated frame building, returned to discussion with the arrival of Dr. Fred Blake Bentley as president of the college in July 1966. Opportunity met the need for a college administration building when the Treat Annex was lost to fire in 1977, and the decision was made to erect a centrally located administration building to honor Dr. Hoyt Blackwell. Dr. Blackwell (1890-1988) had served as president of Mars Hill College from June 1938 through June 1966.

Six Associates, an Asheville architectural firm, completed the plans for this multi-story building in the late spring and summer of 1977. The asymmetrical design of the modern brick-and-glass-wall building reflects compromise, accommodation, and the opportunity of a change in grade to take advantage of the scenic views to the west. Like many other multi-block buildings of its period, Blackwell Hall has no front elevation, in a conventional sense. However, in respect to its location at the west head of the quadrangle, where most of the other buildings are two stories (on basement) in height and traditional in design, the architects created a two-story-on-basement

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entrance (and service) block with a recessed doorway on the first story opening onto the quadrangle and an exterior balcony overlooking the quad above on the second story.

In effect the referential “front” of the building is actually the functional back of a building whose main offices and rooms are housed in a diagonally positioned wing which, in size, mass, and appearance comprises the main block of Blackwell Hall. With the drop in grade, this office block is a full three stories tall and has a dramatic two-story atrium facing onto Cascade Street which links it to the “front block.” The long adjoining southeast elevation of the office block has large multi-pane plate glass windows illuminating all three floors. The opposite northwest elevation of the office wing has a dramatic three-part design with equal-size sections projecting in a stepped fashion. These shifts in plane and plan are unified by alternating horizontal bands of brick and plate glass windows that also engage balconies on the third story opening off the president’s office and adjoining conference and meeting rooms.

The interior of Blackwell Hall, accessible from both the atrium and the quadrangle entrances, has an informal open plan that varies from floor to floor but generally accommodates offices opening off halls, lobbies, and reception areas positioned on a southwest/northeast axis parallel with the mass of the wing. The size, finish, and location of these offices and meeting rooms reflect administrative hierarchy and increase in the rise to the third story.

6.      McConnell Gymnasium  
         Smith and Carrier, architects  
         1924  
         Contributing building

The initiative leading to the construction of this imposing Classical Revival-style brick building began with the appointment of a gymnasium committee at the 7 May 1914 meeting of the college trustees. William C. McConnell, J. M. Stoner, and R. S. Gibbs were named to the committee; however, their efforts did not advance until 1919 when Mr. McConnell (1863-1937), a prominent Asheville businessman, gave \$1,000 toward the project. Even so, four years would pass until August 1923 when the Asheville architectural firm of Smith & Carrier produced the plans for the building. Comprising ten sheets, the original drawings survive in the collection of the Asheville Art Museum. The building was built according to the plans and completed in 1924 except for the swimming pool that does not appear to have been finished until about 1932. On 8 January 1925 the trustees approved a motion to name the building in honor of Mr. McConnell and it has carried his name to the present.

Although an essentially utilitarian building, McConnell Gymnasium has a real presence achieved through symmetry and the spare use of classical detailing. Its elevations are laid up in one-to-five bond. In plan the building is composed of two blocks of unequal size, both of which are covered



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by asphalt-shingle hip roofs. The front of the building, five bays wide and two bays deep, is a single-pile two-story-on-basement block whose symmetrical elevations feature corresponding window openings on each level containing six-over-one sash. It contains offices and classrooms. The center entrance on the south façade, sheltered by the shallow, giant-order portico featuring paired Ionic columns, opens directly into the stair hall that links the three stories of this block and also provides direct access to the three levels of the gymnasium.

In plan the gymnasium itself occupies about three-quarters of the building's total footprint. It is aligned on a north/south axis, perpendicular to the front block, and has long east and west side elevations that are inset behind the end walls of the front block. The fenestration of these elevations is essentially identical, and symmetrical. The basement story is illuminated by twelve twelve-pane metal windows whose upper eight panes comprise a sash that can be tilted for ventilation. The upper part of the elevations are treated as a single story on the exterior and feature five large symmetrical openings fitted with multi-pane metal windows. Because of a change in grade, the north end of the gymnasium contains a sub-basement that houses a boiler room and mechanical space. A tall brick chimney is engaged here in the northwest corner of the gymnasium. The north elevation includes a door into the sub-basement, paired windows on the basement level and three large openings on the main level.

Although heavily used, the interior of McConnell Gymnasium survives remarkably intact. The finish of the front office and classroom block is traditional and conventional in appearance. By about 1952 the basement swimming pool had been covered over, floored, and put into use as handball courts. It was used by the education department until 1996 when its offices were relocated to Memorial Library. Since 1996 the basement has been used as a rehearsal space for the college's Bailey Mountain Cloggers. The main level of the gymnasium contains the basketball court. It has a maple floor and partially-painted exposed brick walls. The roof structure is also visible. The tall, two-story gymnasium is fitted with an oval balcony, floored with pine that was probably intended for use as an indoor running track, however, it long held bleacher seating for students attending basketball games. The gymnasium continues in use for a variety of student recreational and leisure activities.

7.      Amphitheater  
         1935  
         Contributing Structure

During the first decades of the twentieth century, amphitheaters were erected on many college campuses as open-air theaters for plays, musical events, and other entertainments and gatherings. Articles in the "Hilltop" on 3 and 11 October 1935 recount the construction of the amphitheater by student labor under the supervision of Clayton I. Poor, an Asheville landscape architect, and Bryson H. Tilson, superintendent of buildings and grounds at Mars Hill. These men and their

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laborers took advantage of the existing natural slope on the north edge of the quadrangle which, with some grading, provided an excellent setting. The amphitheater consists of two principal parts: the seating and the stage. The stage is a rectangular grass-covered platform, slightly elevated above grade for emphasis. The south front and the southernmost parts of its east and west side elevations are fronted by a stone masonry retaining wall. The stage is enhanced by a shallow (now dry) reflecting pool whose arched edge mirrors the arc of the seating. The pool encircles the front of the stage and about one-half of its side elevations. It is also bordered by stone edging. The incline at the back of the stage, rising north to Bailey Street, was planted originally with hemlocks and white pines which quickly formed a dense background. The original landscape design of the amphitheater extended behind Moore/Marshbanks Hall (#8) and into the area between it and Spilman Hall (#9) where a sunken garden featured a circular pool and a series of smaller pools whose waters cascaded into the reflecting pool across the front of the stage. Today portions of the rockwork for the pools and plant material from the garden survive here.

The concrete seating of the amphitheater comprises sixteen concentric, arched, flat benches that were poured in place atop low stone masonry bases. The seating is linked by like concrete panels, set into the ground, that form an aisle centered on the stage. The aisle is actually off-center of the seating which arcs to the east, behind Moore/Marshbanks Hall (#8) for a greater length than it extends on the west side of the aisle. In 1971 the quadrangle entrance to the amphitheater was reconfigured and incorporated with a wisteria-covered wood trellis on brick piers and a low masonry wall that create a visual enclosure across the back of the amphitheater.

8.      Moore Hall/Marshbanks Hall  
         Martin Egbert Parmalee, architect  
         1909  
         Contributing building

This handsome two-story-on-basement brick building, designed in 1908, completed in 1909, and occupied as a library and classroom building in 1910, was the fifth important brick building erected on the Mars Hill campus. It is one of three of that group that survive in the district (#3, 8-9). It is the earliest surviving college building to be designed by an identified architect. On 4 May 1908 the trustees approved the plans by Martin Egbert Parmalee (1852-1945) and awarded the contract for its construction to Beck, Briggs, and Anderson. John Wilson Anderson (1865-1948), a principal in the firm, was married to a granddaughter of Edward Carter. The contract price was \$9,999.00. By 1922 the building was named in honor of Dr. Moore (1870-1949), and in 1979 it was renamed Marshbanks Hall to honor William Willis (1852-1938) and Dora (Anderson) Marshbanks (1853-1922) and their daughters, Fuchsia Virginia (1887-1978) and Flossie Marshbanks (1895-1981). The Marshbanks sisters were major donors to the college.

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In plan, Marshbanks Hall is a rectangular two-story-on-basement brick building, three bays wide and three bays deep, whose footprint is enlarged by an ell centered on the north rear elevation. Its elevations are laid up in one-to-four bond and framed by shallow brick quoins. The expansive deck-on-hip roof of asphalt shingles is surmounted by an open belfry which houses a bell believed to have been moved here in 1910 when the college's antebellum main building was torn down. The simple, yet eclectic character of the symmetrical building is difficult to define stylistically except to note vague references to the Tudor Revival style in the frontispiece centered on the south elevation overlooking the quadrangle, which serves to distinguish the façade. The window openings contain twelve-over-one sash flanked by eight-pane sidelights. The three-bay east and west side elevations have corresponding window openings on all three levels. As on the façade, the basement and first-story openings have arched heads of soldier-course brick while the second-story windows have flat lintels. Single-width openings holding twelve-over-one sash flank larger openings containing twelve-over-one sash with sidelights. On the building's north elevation tiers of the larger windows, repeating the pattern of arched and flat heads, flank the projecting ell whose north end is fitted with paired large windows on each level.

The simple yet substantial original interior finish of Marshbanks Hall survives intact as does the building's plan. Paired front doors open into a large, spacious hall where an imposing, somewhat overscaled stair links the three levels. The basement level contains three large classrooms and the student lavatories while the first and second stories contain both classrooms and faculty offices. Most of the rooms retain their board and batten wainscot and five-panel doors.

9.      Treat Dormitory/Spilman Hall  
         Henry Irven Gaines, architect (1941)  
         1906-07, 1921, 1941  
         Contributing building

This large Colonial Revival-style brick building, whose appearance reflects its original completion in 1907, a major expansion on the north end in 1921, and a renovation in 1941, is associated with two important benefactors of Mars Hill College. In 1905 Milo Clinton Treat agreed to donate \$2,000 to the college for a boy's club facility if a like sum could be raised. The matching funds and others were raised, this site was acquired, plans for the building secured, and construction began on the two-and-a-half-story gambrel-roof building in 1906. This lot had earlier been the site of Spivey Hall, a boarding house for boys, operated by the Reverend Frank A. Clarke who, with his wife, conveyed the property to the school in February 1906 (Madison Deeds, 25/153). Treat Dormitory was dedicated on 28 August 1907. From 1907 to 1921 the building was a dormitory for male students at Mars Hill College.

In 1920 major gifts from the Baptist Home Mission Board and Dr. Bernard Washington Spilman provided funds to essentially double the size of the original building by the construction of a

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three-story-on-basement block extending north from the 1907 building. It provided dormitory rooms on the upper three levels and a new college dining room, kitchen, bakery, and storage facilities in the basement, which was effectively on ground level, and a two-level west wing. The conventional frame porch on the front was replaced with an expansive Colonial Revival-style porch which wrapped around its southeast and southwest corners and carried down the respective east and west elevations of the dormitory. The L-shaped southwest part of the porch was glazed as a sun porch. Honoring the conditions of the Spilman gift the building was renamed Spilman Home for Girls, and with its completion in summer 1921 it housed 100 girls for the year's fall term. In 1941 Henry Irven Gaines produced plans for the renovation of the building which mainly involved mechanical systems and accommodations reflecting the building's return to use as a boys dormitory. This 1941 project also included the glazing of the sun porch on the southeast corner of the dormitory and the Colonial Revival remodeling of the parlor. Spilman remained a dormitory for male students until about 1983. The college dining facilities were relocated in 1948 to the newly-completed Coyte Bridges Dining Hall. In recent years the front part of Spilman Hall has housed offices and accommodations for various college programs. The college's theater arts department utilizes the former dining hall for prop and costume storage, the kitchen and related facilities for its workshops, and a portion of the former dormitory block for its offices.

The two-stage construction of Spilman Hall is readily apparent on the exterior where each block has a distinct character. The original building, comprising the south half of the present building, is a two-and-a-half story gambrel-roof brick building laid up in one-to-five bond. The second story has a six-bay design with two-over-two sash windows. The three bays of the upper gambrel end are united by an iron fire escape that has the appearance of a balcony. The east side elevation of the original block includes the extension of the sun porch and seven conventional window openings on the first story, ten windows on the second story, and five pedimented gable-roof dormers on the third level, each fitted with two windows. The fenestration of the west elevation is essentially similar but with some variation.

The north half of Spilman Hall, added in 1921, laid up in one-to-six bond, and covered by an end gable roof, is utilitarian in appearance. It includes a one-story ground level block on its north gable end and a substantial two-level wing on the north end of its west side which housed the kitchen, pantry, and storage facilities and appears to have been enlarged over time. The rectangular window openings hold six-over-six sash. The east elevation has nine bays on the basement level, including a doorway, and eight bays with corresponding window openings on the first, second, and third stories. The north gable end has a symmetrical three-bay arrangement on the three stories above the one-story block and an attic window in the upper gable. The fenestration of the west elevation is essentially the same.

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The interior plan and finish of Spilman Hall appears to date largely from the expansion and renovation projects of 1921 and 1941 with some later surface improvements reflecting evolving uses. The college snack shop and a well-appointed parlor occupy the front of the first story which also contains two residential apartments. A staircase, rising from the parlor, links the three floors which are all arranged with center corridors, aligned on a north/south axis, with rooms and offices on either side. Elements of the finish in the former dining hall and kitchens also survive in those spaces now occupied by the college's theater department.

10.      former Mars Hill Baptist Church (now Owen Theatre)  
            Martin Egbert Parmalee, architect  
            1918  
            Contributing building

Since 1856, when Mars Hill College opened as the French Broad Baptist Institute, the fortunes of the college, the town, and the local Baptist church have been closely intertwined. College officials and faculty were both important leaders in the church and prominent citizens of the town. The church here was first known as Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, and also dated to 1856, however, in 1860 the congregation determined to adopt the name Mars Hill under which the college had received its charter in 1859. From its organization until about 1887 the church held services in the college's main building. On 18 August 1886 Ashbel Ovidius and Florence J. Carter sold the church trustees a lot comprising about one-third of an acre (being the site of this building) for \$40. It was described in the deed as "the lot on which the new church is now being built at Mars Hill" (Madison Deeds, 22/526-527). A documentary photograph of the college, dated 1900, shows a gable-front frame church with a multi-stage tower offset at its front southeast corner at this location. By 1907 that building, which the church history describes as "poorly constructed," became unsafe and was abandoned by the congregation for worship. From 1907 to 1918, the congregation returned to the campus and held services in the auditorium that stood on the east end of the quadrangle.

Efforts leading to the construction of this building date to the early 1910s. The initiative was well enough along that the church elders secured plans for the church from Martin Egbert Parmalee and accepted them on 24 November 1912. Although the church had owned the lot on which this building stands since 1886, the matter of raising funds necessary to build this imposing building proved difficult and delayed its completion until 1918. The catalyst that brought the project to fruition was the arrival in 1914 of the Reverend Jesse Roland Owen (1871-1969) as minister of Mars Hill Church. Mr. Owen was also a faculty member of Mars Hill College and a long-term trustee. He energized the stalled efforts and four years later, on 21 April 1918, he preached the first sermon from the pulpit of the completed church.



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Mars Hill Baptist Church occupied this building until spring 1954 when the congregation moved to their nearby, newly-completed building in the northwest corner of Bailey and Main streets. Earlier, on 5 May 1953, the trustees sold the church and the adjoining pastorium (#11) to the college (Madison Deeds, 83/620-621), and from 1954 until 1968 the building was used as the college chapel. Shortly after the end of religious services here, the building was assigned to the college's theatre arts department. The former sanctuary was refitted as a performance space, and the building named the Owen Theater. It continues to be used by the college theatre department and as the summer house of the Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre.

The Owen Theatre is an imposing Classical Revival-style brick building with a cruciform plan and over-scaled arch-headed window openings in the center of its front (south) and side (east and west) gable ends. These brick-framed openings were originally each fitted with seven stained glass windows and complementing stained glass transoms. The handsome transoms remain in place; however, the lower window openings have been refitted with conventional windows. The building is laid up in one-to-five bond, covered with both gable and hip roofs, and surmounted by a belfry with paired arch-headed openings on its four sides. It stands on a high basement whose fenestration forms part of the decorative finish of each elevation.

The symmetrical south façade is dominated by the center gable which is flanked by vestibules enclosed in the corners of the cross plan. Here long straight flights of brick and poured concrete steps rise from the street to paired five-panel doors set below transoms in arch-headed doorways. Decorative buttressing which frames the front gable is reused here to frame the doorways. The east and west side elevations are nearly identical except that the door openings appear as windows illuminating the vestibules and other parts of the interior. An ell, covered with a hip roof, is centered on the building's rear (north) elevation, and its three elevations have a generally symmetrical treatment.

Although the church's pew seating has been replaced with theatre seating, relatively little significant change has occurred in the building. The vestibules, the former sanctuary, and the balcony retain their original well-detailed finish including sheathed wainscoting with chair rails, the stair wells and railings linking the vestibules with the balcony, five-panel doors and their architraves, and the pressed, patterned tin ceiling in the balcony. The basement level fellowship hall is now used as the theatre's green room and other spaces have been put to pertinent use.

11.      Pastorium (now Jarrett House)  
            ca. 1918-1921  
            Contributing building

This well-finished one-and-a-half-story brick bungalow was erected as the residence of the minister at Mars Hill Baptist Church (#10) during the pastorate of the Reverend Jesse Roland

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Owen. The lot on which it stands was conveyed to the church trustees in April 1918 by I. B. Shive and his wife (Madison Deeds, 36/177). Whether Mr. Parmalee was also the designer of the pastorium is not known, but likely. Mr. Owen occupied it until his resignation in 1931, and at least four successive ministers also resided here. In 1953 the house and the church were sold to Mars Hill College (Madison Deeds, 83/620-621). The house was subsequently used as a faculty residence and came to be called the Jarrett House, apparently in honor of R. F. Jarrett of Sylva, who had contributed in the 1940s toward the construction of a faculty apartment house that was never built. The house was occupied by the campus security department from the 1990s until 2004 when it was assigned to the theater arts department.

The pastorium is a remarkably intact, well-preserved brick house, laid up in common bond, which stands on a raised basement and is covered with a side gable roof of asphalt shingles. Its handsome finish includes single, paired, and triple windows with six-over-one sash in molded surrounds with brick sills and flat arches, and a shingle-clad dormer and gable ends with wide bracketed eaves. A bungalow-style brick porch dominates the three-bay south façade where its tall brick base incorporates a well-finished and glazed room in the basement under the porch, and its corner piers support arches spanning the front and sides of the porch. The steep flight of steps leading to the porch, with brick sides and concrete caps, recall those on the adjoining church. The gable front dormer holds a trio of windows that echo those in the bays flanking the center entrance. The pastorium's three-bay east elevation is symmetrical while the west elevation includes, front to back, a partially engaged chimney flanked by short windows, a three-part window illuminating the dining room, and the service porch with a shingle-sheathed apron. Four windows are asymmetrically positioned on the rear elevation.

The pastorium's interior follows convention with the front door opening directly into the living room. The dining room and kitchen are positioned behind it on the west side of the house while a tier of three bedrooms is aligned on the east side of the house. The bathroom and the enclosed stair rising to the second story's three small bedrooms are accessible from a hall positioned between the tiers of rooms. The finish includes pine floors, plaster walls and ceilings, five-panel doors, and simply-detailed architraves and molded baseboards.

12.      Edna Corpening Moore and Stroup Halls  
            Henry Irven Gaines, architect  
            1938; 1941  
            Contributing building

Following the expansion of the Treat building (#9) as a girls dormitory in 1921, housing for women received little attention until the 1930s when a campaign was mounted to erect a dormitory for female students. Having overseen the building of Melrose and Brown halls for men (#22-23) on the hill south of the quadrangle, the trustees decided to place a new dormitory

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for girls on the hill to the north. On 27 May 1937 the trustees passed a motion supporting the construction of a new dormitory for women to be named in honor of Dr. Moore's wife, Edna Corpening Moore. On 29 June 1937 the college purchased the desired hillside tract of 5.88 acres on the north side of Bailey Street from Ashbel Edward and Estella Carter (Madison Deeds, 59/609). Mr. Gaines produced the plans for the large three-story-on-basement building which then represented the largest single construction project undertaken by the college; they are dated 14 August 1937. The cornerstone for the building was laid on 9 October 1937, and the dormitory for 120 residents was dedicated on 25 May 1938 (McLeod, 243-44). By the end of 1940 additional space for females students was needed and the trustees decided to expand Moore Hall. Mr. Gaines produced the plans for an ell addition, dated 20 March 1941, and after some revision construction began. The new wing, later named Stroup Hall in honor of trustee Mrs. Rush (Mae Cline) Stroup (1891-1990) of Shelby, was completed that year (McLeod, 257).

Although erected in two separate building programs and having individual entrances, Edna Corpening Moore and Stroup Halls are essentially one very large L-shaped Colonial Revival-style brick building. The front block, completed as Moore Hall, is a large elongated rectangle, positioned on an east/west axis, with seven-bay rear ells projecting at the east and west ends of the north elevation. Moore Hall's south façade, a continuous twenty-two bays in width, appears as a three-part composition. The center part of the elevation, twelve bays wide and covered by a side-gable roof, is flanked by five-bay units which are surmounted by brick gables under the front-gable roofs covering the ells. The common-bond elevations rise flush from the ground to simply-molded painted cornices that recur as rake boards on the gable fronts. The enclosed projecting one-story entrance porch, occupying the center six bays, is the decorative focus of the façade and is preceded by paired flights of full-width concrete steps. Classical pilasters frame the recessed center entrance, and the porch is surmounted by a decorative painted iron railing. "Edna Corpening Moore Dormitory" is inscribed in the porch frieze. Mr. Gaines dressed the six second-story windows above the porch with classical architraves and keystones and designed lintels with keystones for the center three bays on the gable ends. All the openings have painted cast-concrete sills and now contain replacement one-over-one sash. The east side of the Moore block and its rear elevation repeat the general symmetry of the façade.

Stroup Hall occupies most of the long west ell of the overall building and has a twenty-two bay west façade. The design of Stroup Hall effectively replicates that of the earlier Moore Hall. Here the three-bay entrance porch is positioned off-center, to the south, and supported by paired iron lattice-work posts and covered by a bell-cast roof. It shelters three doorways fitted with double-leaf doors below eight-pane transoms. Aside from the porch design, the only difference in the elevations is the fenestration which reflects a difference in the plans between the two blocks. Residents of Moore Hall had to leave their rooms for common bathrooms, opening off its halls, whereas Stroup Hall was designed with small bathrooms between paired dorm rooms each

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occupied by two students. This difference is reflected on the elevations in the use of narrow bathroom windows between pairs of windows illuminating each room of Stroup Hall.

The interiors of both halls feature common rooms for assembly and entertainment and dormitory rooms aligned on either side of the center corridors on the three stories of each block. Laundry rooms, and other facilities are located in the basements. The parlor of Moore Hall is fitted with a Colonial Revival mantel, six brass chandeliers, and a portrait of Edna Corpening Moore painted by Cuthbert Lee. Most of the original finish of the corridors, student rooms, and bathrooms remains in place.

13.      Huffman Hall  
            Henry Irven Gaines, architect  
            1946-1947  
            Contributing building

Huffman Hall was the first building erected on the campus of Mars Hill College after the building restrictions implemented during World War II were lifted. Mr. Gaines produced plans for the building, dated 14 February 1946, and it was placed under construction in spring 1946. The trustees subsequently voted to name the building in honor of Robert Obediah Huffman (1890-1978), a wealthy Morganton businessman and manufacturer and a member of the college buildings and grounds committee. Huffman Hall was dedicated on 11 October 1947 and occupied during the fall term of that year. The building was designed to house 133 female students. In 1997, the building became a men's dormitory.

In the design of Huffman Hall Mr. Gaines again employed the austere Colonial Revival formula he utilized in the design of Moore and Stroup Halls. The appearance, materials, and finish of those 1937 and 1941 buildings were repeated here in a residence hall that was positioned to complement the earlier building. It, too, is three stories high on a full raised basement and has a sub-basement that is on ground level on its north and west elevations. In plan it comprises a principal rectangular block, aligned on an east/west axis with the north end of Stroup Hall, and a front ell which projects southward at the west end of the hall's south façade.

The fourteen-bay façade effectively repeats the treatment seen on Moore Hall. The projecting one-story, enclosed three-part entrance porch is centered on the façade's six center bays. This entrance pavilion is embellished with cast-stone Tuscan pilasters which frame the recessed center entrance and the flanking enclosed bays. "Huffman" is carved into the frieze band above the entrance. Cast stone piers, echoing the pilasters, carry the decorative iron railing atop the porch. On the second story, the four center window openings above the porch are enriched with classical architraves and keystones. The projecting gable-front ell is five bays deep and three bays wide. The dormitory's three-bay east gable end, its very long nineteen-bay north rear

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elevation, and the nine-bay west elevation repeat the general symmetry of the façade with corresponding window openings. Secondary entrances, framed by brick pilasters supporting cast-stone entablatures, are positioned at the north end of the west elevation and at the base of the front ell.

Huffman Hall's double-leaf front doors open into a spacious double-level lobby finished with a molded Tuscan cornice and five brass chandeliers. This lobby is actually positioned on a level between the raised basement and the first story. Staircases in its east and west walls descend and rise, respectively, to the center halls of those stories and the student rooms opening off either side. The finish of these corridors, the student rooms, and the bathrooms, including two-panel doors, recalls that of Moore and Stroup Halls. One distinction here are the kitchens located in the center front of the front ells. At least two of these kitchens retain their original fold-down ironing boards. The stairs have metal newels and railings, rather than wood, but are fitted with wood hand rails. Also, the interior window sills are slate rather than wood.

14.      Carter-Humphrey Guest House  
            ca. 1925  
            Contributing building

The survival of this one-and-a-half-story frame cottage on the grounds of Mars Hill College reflects the mix of private residential and educational facilities that characterized the campus neighborhood into the 1950s. It was built about 1925 on Carter family lands by Ashbel Edward Carter (1886-1953) and his wife Estella Willis who were married in 1909. Mr. Carter was a grandson of Edward Carter, who in 1856 sold the land on which the college was established, and the son of Ashbel Ovidius Carter who in 1886 sold the land on which both the first and second (#10) Mars Hill Baptist churches were built. The Carters resided here until selling the house and its acreage to the college on 8 March 1946 for \$15,000 (Madison Deeds, 73/356). The inclusion of "Humphrey" in the name of the cottage derives from a 1946 gift by the Rev. Mr. D. B. Humphrey towards its purchase. It was occupied briefly as a dormitory and by college staff until being refitted in 2004-05 as a college guest house.

The one-and-a-half-story frame bungalow faces southwest and is rectangular in plan except for a one-story one-room ell on the north end of its northwest gable end. It stands on a basement of cast concrete blocks, which have the appearance of ashlar masonry, and is sheathed with wide German siding. The house's side-gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles and a shed roof dormer is centered here on the second level. The front porch is inset in the south corner of its southwest façade and forms one part of the two-bay first-story elevation. The house's other elevations are generally balanced but with varied-size openings. Fenestration includes single, paired, and trios of six-over-one sash windows in plain board surrounds.



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The interior is arranged on a conventional bungalow plan with the front door opening directly into the living room. The dining room, kitchen, pantry, and service porch are aligned on the southeast side of the house while two bedrooms are positioned behind the living room on the northwest side. A hall, the stair to the second story, and a bathroom are located in the rear center. The second story includes three bedrooms and a bathroom. The interior plan was partially reconfigured and its finish and fittings mostly replaced in the 2004-05 renovation.

15.      Carter-Humphrey Dependency  
            ca. 1932-1945  
            Contributing building

The origins of this small frame residential dependency are unconfirmed; however, its architectural fabric suggests its construction during the Carter ownership of the adjoining house. The rectangular one-story building stands on a poured-in-form concrete foundation. It is sheathed with wide German siding and covered with a side gable roof of asphalt shingles. It has a door centered on its south front and asymmetrical window openings on its other three elevations holding mostly three-over-one sash. For the last half-century it has been used as a college-related residence.

16.      Buildings and Grounds Shed/Shop  
            ca. 1930-35  
            Contributing building

This utilitarian frame building was erected as a combination storage shed and shop for use by the buildings and grounds crew headed by Bryson H. Tilson. Mr. Tilson had his office in the ground floor annex on the west side of Spilman Hall (#9). The long rectangular building is covered with a sheet metal shed roof. The varied sheathing on its elevations suggest adaptations over time to changed usage. The north and south ends of the building are sheathed with wide German siding which also appears across the upper part of the east front elevation. Here the north half of the building comprises three open-front bays that are now used for lumber and miscellaneous storage. The south half of the building has been enclosed as a shop and its east elevation sheathed with plain weatherboards. Its doorway contains a reused six, horizontal-panel door. The rear elevation of the building is entirely closed with a variety of sheathings.

17.      Psychology Lab  
            ca. 1971  
            Noncontributing building

This small, rectangular one-story building is built of concrete blocks and partially set into the natural grade. It is covered with a flat deck roof encircled with a horizontal board railing. Doors

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are positioned in its east and west elevations. The window openings, on the west and south sides, hold six-over-six sash. The building is now used for school storage. The interior is partitioned as three rooms with a hall.

18.      Mountain Heritage Cabin  
            ca. 1850-1860; 1939, 1972  
            Noncontributing building

According to college accounts and local tradition this small one-room antebellum log building was erected as the Frog Level School at Grapevine, a rural community in east central Madison County, northwest of Mars Hill. It is said to have been erected on the farm of Robert Wilson Arrington. In the twentieth century it was used as the meeting place of Arrington Branch Baptist Church until the congregation erected a new building in the mid 1930s. In 1939 Minnie (Arrington) Coates, who had inherited the cabin, and her husband Regan Coates gave the building to Mars Hill College. Under the supervision of Dr. Blackwell and Bryson Tilson, it was moved and rebuilt off Dormitory Drive, in a grove near Edgewood House (#24). There it was used as a meeting place for college and community groups and as the site of the college's annual Thanksgiving Day pageant. In 1972 it was moved to this site, placed on a mortared stone foundation and fitted with a stone chimney and fireplace. For some years it was used as the premises of a Madison County craft shop. In 1997 it was refurbished as an informal museum and named the Mountain Heritage Cabin.

The rectangular gable-front building stands on a modern mortared stone foundation and is built of poplar logs laid up in half-dovetail joints and chinked with concrete. The gable ends are sheathed with wood shingles which are also used to cover the roof. A simple shed-roof porch shelters the west front and the center entrance. Window openings in the center of its north and south sides hold modern two-over-two sash. The fieldstone chimney stands in the center of the east gable end where it is flanked by windows in the upper gable. The interior has a pine floor, exposed log walls, and a sheathed ceiling.

19.      Charles M. Wall Science Building  
            Henry Irven Gaines, architect  
            1939-1940  
            Contributing building

Henry Irven Gaines prepared the plans for the building which survive and are dated 28 October 1939. The site of the building having been fixed, ground-breaking for it was held on Founders Day, 12 October 1939. The completed building was dedicated on Founders Day 1940. It was named for Charles Moses Wall, Sr. (1867-1944), a trustee of the college from 1936 to 1944, and chairman of its building and grounds committee (McLeod, 252). Mr. Wall was a prosperous

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businessman in Davidson County, North Carolina, and a prominent benefactor of Baptist institutions.

The Charles M. Wall Science Building, an imposing Moderne-style brick masonry building, reflected a departure from the traditional classical and Colonial Revival-style buildings of the 1920s and 1930s. It survives today as an important and remarkably intact example of its type and style among institutional buildings on North Carolina campuses. While it represents a costly undertaking for the small Baptist-affiliated school, it is not an expensive building. However, Mr. Gaines produced a handsome building with an economy of means, simple consistent detailing, and an unerring use of proportion and massing. It remains one of the most imposing buildings on the Mars Hill campus.

The Wall Science Building is a rectangular building, laid up in common bond, standing three stories in height on a raised basement and covered with a flat parapet roof. Each of its four elevations reflect a consistent symmetry. The façade, facing east onto a green, is dominated by a wide center entrance bay flanked by six-bay wings. Each of these wings has six tall vertical openings, above short basement windows, which contain corresponding windows on the three stories linked by recessed painted panels. The main entrance, comprising paired metal, glazed doors flanked by sidelights and a tall transom, together with flanking windows, is situated on the first story of the frontispiece below a horizontal awning. In elevation the awning is the base of a tall, overscaled opening fitted with glass block which illuminate the interior. Metal letters spelling "Charles M. Wall" appear as a railing at the base of the opening, while the word "SCIENCE" is spelled in letters affixed to the brick parapet projecting above the side wings.

The building's long west elevation has a generally similar but subsidiary design. Here the nine-bay center section is recessed between three-bay blocks whose fenestration repeats that of the facade. That fenestration pattern recurs on the five center bays of the recessed section which are flanked by larger windows illuminating stairwells and conventional openings in the outer bays. "Natural Sciences" is spelled in letters centered on the parapet. The building's north and south elevations are identical and five bays wide with vertical openings holding corresponding windows on the first, second, and third stories above smaller basement windows. A two-level greenhouse was added on the south side in the later twentieth century.

The interior of Wall Science Building reflects the same application of consistent symmetry, proportion, and detailing seen on the exterior. Classrooms, offices, labs, and storerooms are aligned along the center corridors on its four floors. The four stories are linked by paired stairwells with metal staircases symmetrically positioned in the tier of rooms along the back of the building. The floors are oak or tile, the exterior walls painted concrete blocks, and the interior partition walls are painted wallboard or plaster. Doors into the classrooms and offices have nine panes above two horizontal panels while closet and service doors have five horizontal panels.

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The classrooms and laboratories retain many of their original fittings and furnishings as do the lavatories.

20.      Memorial Library (now Brenda G. Nash Education Hall)  
         Henry Irven Gaines; Wayne Douglas Roberts, architects  
         1954-55; 2000  
         Contributing building

In the summer of 1953, pressing needs for a new library at Mars Hill were met when a philanthropist offered to donate \$250,000 for the building provided the college raised the funds to erect another building of equal cost. The challenge was met and Henry Irven Gaines, a partner in Six Associates in Asheville, produced plans for both the library and a men's dormitory (#21). Both sets of plans are dated 15 March 1954. Construction on the library began in spring 1954 and the building was completed in 1955. Because the donor insisted on anonymity, the new building was simply named Memorial Library (McLeod, 260-261). Memorial Library remained in use as the college library until 1996 when the remodeling and expansion of Bridges Dining Hall as Renfro Library was completed. Memorial Library was refitted and partitioned by architect Wayne Douglas Roberts in 2000 for use as faculty offices and classrooms. In November 2004 the building was dedicated as the Brenda G. Nash Education Hall to honor the donor of the renovation funds.

The appearance of Memorial is something of a hybrid between the modern design features seen in the Wall Science Building and the traditional, if also astringent Colonial Revival character of several campus buildings. In plan it consists of two blocks of unequal size: the main front block that contained the reading rooms, circulation station, library services, and staff offices, and a smaller two-story rear block which housed the stack area.

The main block is a rectangular two-story-on-basement brick building laid up in one-to-five bond and covered with a side gable roof finished at each end with false engaged chimney stacks. The nine-bay north façade overlooking Cascade Street (NC 213) has a projecting off-center three-bay frontispiece. On it, the entrance occupies its limestone-sheathed center bay. The flanking bays of the frontispiece hold blind panels on the first story, where wall lights are mounted, and paired two-over-two sash in the square openings on the second story. The symmetrical fenestration on the façade's remaining six bays features conventional paired windows in single openings on the first story and smaller corresponding windows on the second story. All contain replacement two-over-two metal sash. The three-bay east and west gable ends contain like corresponding windows on each level.

The flat-roof rear block of Memorial Library has an altogether utilitarian appearance and is inset from the main block's southeast and southwest corners. It is two-bays deep. The west half of the

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block is treated as two stories and has corresponding windows on both levels. The east half of this block is the part that actually housed the book stacks and it has three levels with seven small, symmetrical corresponding windows on each level.

The interior of Memorial Library was originally finished in a Moderne fashion and traces of that character, including the stair with its metal railing survive. The metal shelving also remains in the stack area. The most important part of the surviving finish is the appealing abstract tile work on the floors and ceilings of the men's and women's lavatories.

21.    Myers Hall  
       Henry Irven Gaines, architect  
       1954-55  
       Contributing building

The construction history of Myers Hall is essentially the same as that of Memorial Library (#20). Designed by Henry Irven Gaines, as a member of Six Associates, the building was begun in 1954 and completed and occupied in 1955. It provided accommodation for 128 male students and it continues in use today as a men's dormitory. Myers Hall was named in honor of two students of the college who later served as trustees: Charles Burette Myers (1889-1950), a Statesville businessman and trustee from 1945 to 1949, and his wife Elizabeth Holman (Austin) Myers (1900-1978), who was trustee for successive terms from 1950 to 1974.

The austere, traditional styling of the building, with its one-story Moderne limestone (or cast stone) porch, also enjoys a kinship with the library. Myers Hall is a three-story L-plan brick building, laid up in one-to-five bond, and covered with side-gable roofs of asbestos shingles. It stands on a partial basement, located in the angle of the "L", which contains a recreation room, laundry, and boiler room. In elevation the upright of the "L" is the north front of the building. The generally symmetrical façade is eight bays wide and features corresponding openings on the three stories that are fitted with replacement one-over-one sash. The entrance porch occupies the second and third bays east of the northwest corner and has a flagstone floor and steps, square piers, and an angled cornice around its flat roof. The metal and glass doors retain their label as "Pittsburgh Plate Glass Tubelite Doors." The dormitory is set at an angle to Dormitory Drive which carries along its west side. This elevation is nine bays deep including three bays in the gable end of the front block and six bays in the ell forming the base of the "L". Fenestration on this elevation again features corresponding windows on its three stories; however, the windows in the southernmost, end bay are offset between the stories and illuminate a stairwell. The elevations of Myers Hall are finished with unpainted stepped brick cornices while the eaves of the gable ends are finished with painted wood moldings. A brick smokestack rises in the angle of the "L" where a one-story assembly room is also positioned; plate glass doors on its east end open onto a flagstone terrace that extends along the remainder of the dormitory's south elevation.

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The interior of Myers Hall is simply finished and features rooms aligned along the center corridors of the two blocks. These double rooms feature built-in closets and drawer units for each student. Communal bathrooms in each wing serve the students. The abstract decorative tile work on the bathroom floors and walls, also essentially the same as that in the library building, is likewise the most important interior decorative feature of this building.

22.      Melrose Hall (now Turner Hall)  
            Martin Egbert Parmalee and Sons; Six Associates;  
            Barber & McMurray, architects  
            1924; 1956; 2001-02  
            Contributing building

The construction of Melrose Hall and adjoining Brown Hall (#23) resulted from the challenge gift of \$50,000 by Milo Clinton Treat. Mr. Treat's gift funded the erection of this building for men while the second \$50,000 raised by the college was applied to the second men's dormitory erected here on the hillside south of the center campus. Mr. Treat is said to have chosen the name Melrose for the residence hall (McLeod, 218-220). The design is attributed to the firm of M. E. Parmalee and Sons. In 1956 some improvements to the building were made to the designs of Six Associates. These included the enclosed, gable-roof stairway blocks on each gable end and closets in the individual rooms. In 2001-02 the building was completely remodeled and an enclosed vestibule erected to designs prepared by Barber & McMurray of Knoxville, Tennessee. The renovated building was occupied in the fall term 2002 and dedicated on 19 October 2002 in honor of J. Platt Turner, class of 1940, and his wife.

Melrose Hall is a simply-detailed two-story Colonial Revival-style brick building laid up in one-to-five bond. Because of a drop in grade the west section of the building stands on a partial, visible basement. The dormitory's rectangular plan is varied by paired, shallow projecting ells, positioned symmetrically one bay inside the edges of its long north and south elevations. In elevation these ells have two-bay gable-fronts which flank the seven-bay center section of each wall. In effect Melrose has two facades. One that faces north through a thin woodland to the main campus and another that faces south to the lawn and parking lot. On the north façade a shallow enclosed porch projects from the body of the building and has five bays marked by painted pilasters. Doors in the outer bays open onto a full-width stoop. On the south façade a two-story three-bay ell was added in 2001-02 to the center of the building and encircled with a one-story porch supported by thick brick piers. The east and west gable ends of the dormitory were fitted in 1956 with complementing two-story stair wells. During the 2001-02 renovation the window openings were refitted with replacement six-over-six sash. The eaves were also covered with a synthetic siding. The roof is asphalt shingles. The interior of Melrose Hall was completely remodeled in 2001-02 and virtually all of the interior finishes date to that effort. While the center

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corridor plan was retained, the rooms along each side were configured to form suites, each with its own bathroom. The south ell addition contains the main lobby and stair linking the two floors.

23.      Brown Hall  
            Martin Egbert Parmalee and Sons; Six Associates;  
            Barber & McMurray, architects  
            1924-25  
            Contributing building

The history of Brown Hall is the same as that of its companion, Melrose Hall, except for its name. The residence hall was named in honor of Dr. Albert Erskine Brown (1863-1924), a son of the founding president of the French Broad Baptist Institute, who enjoyed a long, distinguished career as superintendent of the mountain mission schools supported by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Following the 2001-2002 renovation Brown Hall has been a female residence hall.

The appearance of Brown Hall is virtually the same as that of Melrose Hall. The interior was subject to a like renovation.

24.      Edgewood House  
            1925  
            Contributing building

This substantial two-story frame Colonial Revival-style house was built in 1925 as a residence for the college's vice president, Philip Lovin Elliott (1891-1961). Mr. Elliott had served as dean of the college from 1923 to 1925 and would continue as vice president until 1930 when he joined the faculty of Western Carolina Teachers College. Whether the architectural partnership of Martin Egbert Parmalee and his sons, John Horace and Egbert Dean Parmalee, designed the house is unconfirmed; however, given the fact that the firm designed the nearby, contemporary Melrose and Brown Halls, their authorship is likely. The house became the president's residence in the late 1930s or early 1940s when it was occupied by Hoyt Blackwell, president of the college from 1938 to 1966. His successor Dr. Fred Blake Bentley resided here from 1966 to 1996, as did his successor A. Max Lennon who vacated the house for his own private residence in 2000. In 1967 the house was enlarged with side wings and the kitchen was remodeled for Dr. Bentley to designs by the architectural firm of Sappenfield, Wiegman and Hall.

The two-story house has a wide three-bay main block, covered by a side-gable roof and flanked by one-story wings, whose appearance is dominated by its multi-part windows. The house is sheathed with wide German siding, which was covered with aluminum siding in 1967. On the north façade the center entrance is recessed and sheltered by a one-story hip-roof porch

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supported by square columns. The brick floor of the porch extends as an open terrace across the front of the house and engages a larger terrace in front of the east wing. Under the porch the front door is flanked by windows holding paired six-over-one sash. The other large window openings on the façade hold either paired or triple six-over-one sash. The wings each have symmetrical openings holding three six-over-one sash. The side elevations have a general symmetry as does the rear elevation where a two-story ell, containing the staircase, is flanked by one-story blocks.

Inside, the finish of the two-story block is largely intact and typical of better construction of the period. The floors are oak, the walls and ceilings are plaster, the baseboards have molded tops, and the architraves feature applied backbands. The doors all have a five, horizontal panel arrangement, and many retain their original glass knobs. The stair, enclosed in the rear ell, has a wood railing. The dining room, on the east side of the spacious entrance hall, has a brick fireplace on its south wall. The second story has three original bedrooms, a bathroom, and a small sewing room.

25.      Garage  
            ca. 1967  
            Noncontributing building

This rectangular frame building stands on a concrete block foundation and is covered with a front gable asphalt-shingle roof. Its elevations are sheathed with aluminum siding. An overhead door is centered in its north gable front and a metal window appears in the center of its south gable end. The side walls are blind.

26.      Memorial for "Joe the Slave"  
            1932; 1955  
            Contributing object

The stone was erected originally in 1932 as a memorial to a slave named Joe who was imprisoned briefly as security for a disputed debt owed by the college trustees to the builder of the college's main building. The rectangular, upright tablet is rough-finished gray granite with a polished rectangular panel on its (now north) front. The panel holds the following inscription:

In Memory of

Joe

A Slave Who Was Taken

By the Contractors of



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The First Building of  
This College as a Pledge  
For the Debt Due Them  
1856.

“Joe” was a slave owned by Jesse Woodson Anderson who served for a time as secretary of the board of trustees. The date of his birth is not known, nor is that of his death, which is said to have occurred between 1900 and 1910. His body was buried in a private cemetery on the property of Leonard J. Huff. In 1932 soil from his burial place was moved onto the campus to a site near Dormitory Drive. Charles Marshal Palmer (1867-1939), a trustee and the owner of Palmer Stone Works in Albemarle, erected this marker as a tribute to the man and the legend. It was unveiled with ceremony on Founders Day 1932 (McLeod, 19, 22-24). In 1955 the stone was moved to this location.

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### 8. NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### Summary

The Mars Hill College Historic District, comprising nineteen historic educational, administrative, and residential buildings, the college amphitheater, and the campus grounds, occupies an important place in the history of Mars Hill, Madison County, and Western North Carolina. The school, opened as the French Broad Baptist Institute in 1856 and chartered as Mars Hill College in 1859, survives as the oldest educational institution operating on its original site in Western North Carolina and the first school of lasting importance established by the Baptist Church in North Carolina west of the Catawba River. Including buildings and grounds at the heart of the Baptist-affiliated liberal arts college campus, and at a site used for education since 1856, except for interruptions in 1863-65 and 1872-76, the district satisfies National Register Criteria A, B, and C and holds statewide significance in the areas of education and architecture. The district meets Criteria Consideration A due to the educational focus of the historic district and its architecture.

The Mars Hill College Historic District reflects the growth and development of institutions of higher education in western North Carolina and the long evolution of a school, that like others, was named a college and operated as such long before it became one in the modern sense in the 1920s. The district's significance in the history of education in its community, region, and the state of North Carolina, is also associated with the role of religious denominations as supporters of educational institutions in nineteenth- and twentieth-century North Carolina. Both the Baptist and Presbyterian denominations were early sponsors of schools and higher education. Members of the state's Baptist churches established Wake Forest College in 1834 and quickly followed suit with the establishment of the Chowan Institute for Women (now Chowan College) in 1848, Mars Hill in 1856, and Meredith College later, in 1899. At the same time, Presbyterian leaders organized Davidson College in 1837 and Peace College in 1857. In time, leaders in the Episcopal, Methodist, Catholic, and Lutheran denominations likewise established church-sponsored schools and colleges. Almost all of the schools that have survived to the present are located in the Piedmont or eastern North Carolina. Mars Hill is both the first, lasting Baptist institution and the oldest known continuously-operating college located on its original site in Western North Carolina. The resources comprising the historic core of the campus and this district are important for their association with the history of church-supported higher education in North Carolina and the private philanthropy that enabled it to succeed.

The district's significance in the area of education is also associated with the distinguished career of Dr. Robert Lee Moore (1870-1949), who came to Mars Hill College as president in 1897 and served until 1938. During his presidency, which figures among the longest in North Carolina educational history, he oversaw the development of the college from a small institution with an

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uncertain future, through its accreditation as a junior college in 1926, to a standing of recognized status and promise when he resigned at the end of the 1937-38 academic year. On his resignation Dr. Moore had been president of Mars Hill College for one half of its existence, and his long commitment to the institution had effectively secured its survival.

The architectural significance of the Mars Hill College Historic District derives from its importance as a group of educational buildings, ranging in date from 1892 to 1955 and reflecting the procession of architectural styles used for academic buildings in the state for over a half-century. The majority of the buildings and resources including the Rustic-style Montague and Robinson buildings, the Tudor Revival-style Moore/Marshbanks Hall, and the Classical Revival-style McConnell Gymnasium were erected during the presidency of Dr. Robert Lee Moore, and nearly all reflect the patronage of leading North Carolina and eastern Tennessee architects. Of particular importance is the group of six buildings, erected between 1935 and 1955, together with the remodeling of a seventh building, that are the work of Henry Irven Gaines (1900-1986), an Asheville-based architect, either individually or as a partner of Six Associates which he co-founded in 1940. These buildings play a critical role in defining the architectural character of the historic campus.

### Historical Background and Education Context

When the French Broad Baptist Institute opened in 1856 it represented both an important local achievement in newly-created Madison County and yet another step in the broadly-based effort to improve public education in Western North Carolina. Settlement in the mountainous area that became Madison County in 1851 dated to the last decades of the eighteenth century when the territory was in Burke County, which was created in 1777 from Rowan County. In 1791 a part of today's Madison County became a part of Buncombe County, crafted from portions of Burke and Rutherford counties in that year. Some forty-two years later, in 1833, another part of today's Madison County was set apart as Yancey County, which was created out of Burke and Buncombe counties. Madison County, formed from Buncombe and Yancey counties in 1851 and named for President James Madison (1751-1836), was but five years old when the first students entered the doors of the French Broad Baptist Institute.

Public education in this part of Western North Carolina was also little advanced beyond its infancy. It was only in 1825 that the North Carolina Legislature had taken the first steps toward the establishment of common schools by enacting a provision for raising a fund for that purpose, known as the Literary Fund. Further legislation in 1839 led to the organization of the common school system. However, public schools were slow to come to this remote mountainous region, and even so, in their early years, they were rudimentary endeavors. The first known account of public schools here was written by Mitchell Alexander Chandley (1845-1926), a farmer and clerk of the Madison County Superior Court. The date of the account is not known. It was

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included in Dr. Kemp Plummer Battle's "Sketches of Some of the Old or Extinct Schools in the Counties of North Carolina" which was published in 1898 in the *Biennial Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, of North Carolina*. Dr. Battle described the account as "a description of the schools of Madison in the old days, when it was part of Buncombe; however, given Mr. Chandley's birth in 1845 the account likely represents schools in antebellum Madison County of the 1850s.

The common schools generally began about the first day of August and continued one or two months. The teachers were paid from ten to thirty dollars per month, the latter considered a very high price. The exercises began about 7 o'clock in the morning and lasted until about sunset, with one hour's recess at noon for dinner and recreation.

The school-houses were cabins, generally old abandoned houses, and the benches were made of logs, split in the middle with flat sides up. There were two legs at each end about two feet long, so that the feet of the small children would dangle above the floor. The only books used were Webster's Elementary Spelling-book and Fowler's Arithmetic. The teacher, who had studied to the double Rule of Three in the latter, was thought to be very well educated. Geography and Grammar were not thought of.<sup>1</sup>

The public schools in Madison County had progressed little in about 1852 when Edward Carter set about the initiative that led to the creation of Mars Hill College. His efforts, however, were in the tradition of a series of private or subscription schools that had operated in the larger Buncombe County region since the late eighteenth century. In *A History of Buncombe County, North Carolina*, Dr. Foster Alexander Sondley wrote "The log school house at Union Hill was the first school building in Buncombe County and hence, in Western North Carolina" (Sondley, 705). It had come into existence sometime prior to 1793, when its founder, Robert Henry, was succeeded by a Presbyterian clergyman, George Newton. The Reverend Mr. Newton taught school for some twenty years here during which time the log schoolhouse was replaced by a brick building and the name of the school was changed to Newton Academy. Mr. Newton removed to Bedford County, Tennessee, in 1814, and he was succeeded at the Newton Academy by another Presbyterian minister/educator, E. M. Porter. "Other teachers, usually preachers, were, from time to time, in charge of this well known school" (Sondley, 705)<sup>2</sup>.

The circumstances of the Newton Academy/School, where clergymen or denominational partisans were instrumental in the formation and operation of schools, as well as teachers, and a school's status as an educational institution could evolve through successively higher stages, were repeated with variation, time and again, throughout Western North Carolina. Three examples represent the pattern. In 1851 the Reverend Stephen Dulaney Adams (1825-1853), a

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Methodist minister in Burnsville, the Yancey County seat, opened an academy in the small courthouse town located about eighteen miles northeast of Mars Hill. The school moved into a new brick building the next year, and quickly gained a regional respect; however, on Christmas day 1853 Mr. Adams died unexpectedly. In its early years it was known both as the Burnsville Academy and the Burnsville High School. The school, described as the only private school in Yancey County, continued the next year under the Reverend Richard Nye Price (1830-1923) and for another two years, 1854-1856, with the Reverend Thaddeus Peter Thomas as teachers: both were Methodist ministers.<sup>3</sup> In the same year, 1851, leading, mostly Methodist citizens of Weaverville, a small village about ten miles south of Mars Hill and just below the Madison/Buncombe County line, also organized a school that is said to have been held in a combination Temperance Hall and academy building. Its early Methodist affiliation continued through its incorporation as Weaverville College in 1873, a change of name to Weaver College, and finally its merger with Rutherford College in 1934 to form Brevard College in Brevard, North Carolina (Sondley, 711). In Asheville, in 1856, Episcopalians opened the Ravenscroft School for Boys in a recently-built brick house. Ravenscroft School closed in 1864, but it was reopened in 1868 as a theological school that continued to about 1890.

Private, subscription schools such as these, and others, usually with a denominational affiliation, continued in operation in Western North Carolina from the late eighteenth century into the early twentieth century and beyond. After 1839 they co-existed with the state-supported common schools that struggled to exist in the antebellum period and gradually improved after the Civil War and through the remainder of the nineteenth century. By 1846 it is reported every county in the state had one or more public schools.

As regards gender in education Western North Carolina boasted both single-sex schools and others which educated both boys and girls. Antebellum Asheville had both the Asheville Male Academy and the Asheville Female College. A notice for the Burnsville High School, dated 11 August 1853 and published in the *Asheville News* (on 2 March 1854) assured parents of the conditions which appertained at the school.

There are in this School a Male and Female Department; which though both under the supervision of Mr. Adams, will be kept entirely separately, reciting in separate buildings. . . . The young ladies, excepting those who have near relations living in this town, will be required to board at Col. J. W. McElroy's. The gentlemen can board anywhere they may choose, the above boarding house excepted.

Whether the private, often church-affiliated schools were called academies, schools, institutes, collegiate institutes, or colleges, they effectively functioned for most of the nineteenth century as the equivalent of today's grammar, middle, high, and preparatory schools. As the public schools improved in the later nineteenth century, in terms of teaching, curriculum, and facilities, a

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number of the denominational schools elevated their course offerings and began the transition to college status while yet others opened. One such, the Yancey Collegiate Institute (NR, 2003), a Baptist-supported secondary school, opened in Burnsville in 1901 and operated until 1926.

At the same time, in the closing decades of the nineteenth century, the public and private schools in Western North Carolina were supplemented by yet another important group of schools which responded to the educational needs of the region. Beginning about 1880, the Woman's Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., undertook the construction and operation of schools in the mountain region embracing Buncombe, Madison, and Yancey counties, and others in the Piedmont. Between 1887 and 1914, the Woman's Board of Home Missions opened nineteen schools in Madison County, including the Dorland Institute at Hot Springs, the Marshall Academy in the county seat, and others in the remote coves and isolated communities located throughout the county. These schools were small but critical in their service, and they constituted nearly a third of the sixty-two schools supported by the church in 1906, the peak year of its efforts. The sixty-two schools had 4,663 students taught by 181 teachers. At least one of these schools continued in operation into the interwar period. In 1918, the Dorland Institute, the earliest of the group, was merged with the Bell Institute, and continued to operate for some time. Today only one school of the sixty-two continues to exist as an institution. Warren Wilson College at Swannanoa in Buncombe County was founded as the Asheville Farm School in 1907 by the Woman's Board of Home Missions, and it was known for a time as the Warren H. Wilson Vocational College before gaining its present name (McLeod, 196-200).

The oldest private colleges surviving today in Western North Carolina, including Mars Hill College, followed several paths to their present status. Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory, North Carolina, opened in 1891 as Highland College, was soon chartered as Lenoir College, gained official Lutheran affiliation in 1895, was renamed Lenoir-Rhyne College in 1923, and in 1928 gained accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.<sup>4</sup> Rutherford College, which like Mars Hill gave its name to its place, opened in Burke County in 1853 under Methodist auspices. It remained a small school until closing in the early 1930s, and then merged with Weaver College and reopened in 1934 in Brevard as Brevard College. Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, Avery County, had its origin in a class taught in 1899 by the Reverend Edgar Tufts (18\_\_-1923), a Presbyterian minister. A school for girls opened in 1900 in Banner Elk while a counterpart school for boys was established at Plumptree, also in Avery County. In 1907 the schools were chartered as the Lees-McRae Institute. The schools were consolidated into one coeducational school in 1927 in Banner Elk, and in 1931 the institute was renamed Lees-McRae College. Not until 1990 did Lees-McRae College receive accreditation as a four-year college<sup>5</sup>

In Gaston County, on the immediate west side of the Catawba River at the place that became Belmont, members of the Benedictine Order established a monastery and church in the 1870s

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and opened a school for boys known as St. Mary's College in 1876. The monastic and educational facility grew into a complex of Gothic revival buildings in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century, and in 1913 the school was renamed Belmont Abbey College. In Cleveland County, the next county to the west, the Kings Mountain and Sandy Run Baptist associations joined together in 1905 to organize the Boiling Springs High School that opened in 1907. In 1928 the school was renamed Boiling Springs Junior College. It was reorganized and renamed Gardner-Webb College in 1942 to honor Governor O. Max Gardner, a benefactor, and members of the Gardner and Webb families, including Judge E. Yates Webb, chairman of its board of trustees. Its accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools came in 1948, and in 1993 Gardner-Webb became the only private college in Western North Carolina to hold university status. Catawba College, one of the oldest church-affiliated colleges established west of the Catawba River in North Carolina, opened in 1851 in Newton, the Catawba County seat, under the auspices of the (German) Evangelical and Reformed Church (now the United Church of Christ). It operated in Newton until 1923, and in 1925 Catawba College was reopened in Salisbury, where it continues to operate today.

It should also be noted that these denominational-related education efforts in Western North Carolina followed on similar earlier efforts in North Carolina's Piedmont. Wake Forest University, Davidson College, and St. Mary's College flourish today as examples of the commitment of Baptist, Presbyterian, and Episcopal leaders, respectively. So, too, do Meredith and Peace colleges in Raleigh, and Greensboro College, a Methodist-affiliated school. The Methodist-sponsored Trinity College survives today as Duke University.

It was not until the closing decade of the nineteenth century that the North Carolina Legislature initiated support for a public college in Western North Carolina, and in the decade between 1893 and 1903 the region secured state support for two public colleges. In each instance the school's founder played a critical role in securing financial support for his institution. Robert Lee Madison established a school at Cullowhee, Jackson County, that became the Cullowhee High School in 1891 and in 1893 received its first state appropriation. In 1905 the school's name was changed to Cullowhee Normal and Industrial School and in 1925 it became Cullowhee State Normal School. Three other name changes, beginning in 1929, when the school became the Western Carolina Teachers College, reflect its evolving status as an institution. In 1953 the school was renamed Western Carolina College and in 1967 it became Western Carolina University. Today it is a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina. So, too, is Appalachian State University in Boone, which originated in 1899 as Watauga Academy, founded by brothers Dauphin Disco and Blanford Barnard Dougherty. Their goal, to establish a school to train teachers for Western North Carolina, proved successful when the state legislature established the Appalachian Training School (for teachers), which was chartered in 1903. The school was subsequently renamed Appalachian State Teachers College. Blanford Barnard Dougherty (1870-1957) was head of the school for the first half-century of its existence.

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### Mars Hill College, 1856-1897

The founding of Mars Hill College in 1856 derives from the efforts of Edward Carter, principal among others in his community, to provide for the education of his children<sup>7</sup>. Edward Carter (1814-1905), a native of today's Madison County, was married in November 1838 to Clarrisa Ray (b. 1818), a daughter of James Bean and Martha Elvira (Bailey) Ray. Twelve known children were born to the couple between ca. 1839 and ca. 1861.<sup>8</sup> According to tradition, in about 1852 Edward Carter sent his third-born, eldest surviving son, Melvin Edmondson Carter (1843-1895), to an academy in Burnsville, the Yancey Courty seat, where Thomas Washington Ray (1806-1861), his brother-in-law, is said to have also enrolled two of his children.<sup>9</sup> The academy was conducted by the Reverend Stephen Dulaney Adams (1825-1853), a Methodist minister, and affiliated with the Methodist church in Burnsville. The three cousins soon came under the influence of Methodism. The two Ray children are said to have joined the Methodist church. Young Melvin Carter remained a Baptist; however, the situation prompted Edward Carter, a staunch Baptist, to consider the organization of a school under Baptist auspices.

After consulting with Baptist clergymen in the region, including William Keith (1777-1853), pastor of Little Ivy Church, and enlisting their support, Edward Carter sought the assistance of his friends in the Little Ivy community. A subscription list was prepared and circulated for the proposed school to bear the name French Broad Baptist Institute. When the French Broad Baptist Association met in 1854 at Forks of Ivy, a motion "That we grant the request of the Trustees of the French Broad Baptist Institute, i.e., to lend aid and influence in the erection of a building, for the purpose of said institution" (McLeod, 27). In time Edward Carter was one of five men who are said to have subscribed \$100 each to the school: the others were Thomas Washington Ray, Thomas Shepherd Deaver, Jacob C. Sams, and Berry Duyck. Jesse Woodson Anderson, also a brother-in-law of Edward Carter, and William Keith are said to have contributed \$50 each with others pledging lesser amounts. Accounts of the amount of money pledged vary; however, a sufficient sum was committed by 1855 as to allow the trustees to enter into an agreement with Ephraim Clayton and George Wesley Shackleford for the construction of a two-story brick school.

Ephraim Clayton (1804-1892), a carpenter and master builder, and George Wesley Shackleford (ca. 1819-\_\_\_\_), a brick mason, were the leading builders in western North Carolina in the antebellum period, working separately and as partners on a number of important projects. An unsigned biographical account of Mr. Clayton, in the files of the Asheville-Buncombe Public Library, cite him as the builder of courthouses in Lumpkin County, Georgia, and in Caldwell, Buncombe, and Polk counties, North Carolina, and two Episcopal churches, St. John's-in-the-Wilderness, Flat Rock, and Calvary Church, Fletcher (both of which survive). The two churches were designed by Charleston architect Edward C. Jones, who also designed the main building at Wofford College, Spartanburg, which Mr. Clayton built together with five identical residences



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for professors. The Wofford College buildings were completed in 1855, within months of Messrs. Clayton and Shackelford receiving the contract for the building at Mars Hill.<sup>10</sup>

The new brick school building at Mars Hill appears to have been built in 1855 and 1856 and completed early in the latter year. On 14 March 1856, when Edward Carter conveyed a tract of four-and-one-eighth acres to Thomas Washington Ray, chairman of the board of trustees of the French Broad Baptist Institute, and his fellow trustees, the parcel was described as “including the New Academy” (Madison Deeds, 11/303-04). The rectangular two-story brick building was five bays wide, with a center entrance, and two bays deep. It was fitted with six-over-six sash windows and covered by a side gable roof.

Events associated with the completion of the building gave rise to the most enduring narrative in the history of Mars Hill College. They were recalled in a memoir written in the early-twentieth century by John Robert Sams, president of Mars Hill College from 1868 to 1872 (McLeod, 19). John Ammons (1831-1914) also recounted the events in his *Outlines of History of French Broad Association and Mars Hill College* published in 1907.

When settlement was made with the builders there was found to be a debt of eleven hundred dollars, and not a cent in the treasury. The debt was soon turned into a judgment against the President and Secretary of the Board of Trustees, T. W. Ray and J. W. Anderson, and the Sheriff of Buncombe County came and levied on a fine young Negro, named Joe, and carried him to Asheville jail for safe-keeping till the day of sale; it was then that eleven of these men put their heads together to meet the crisis. The writer well remembers how these men sat together in the east room of the college, with their faces in their hands, conferring together, and agreed to share the burden among them. E. Carter, T. W. Ray, J. W. Anderson, J. C. Sams, G. D. Ray, Berry Duyck, Stephen Ammons, Reverend Jesse Ammons, T. S. Deaver, Edward Carter, of Ivy, and John Radford, though each of them had paid one hundred dollars, assumed the responsibility and paid the debt out of their pockets, a notable example of sacrifice for the public good. Too much credit cannot be given these noble men; they builded better than they knew. (Ammons, 79; reprinted in McLeod, 21.)<sup>11</sup>

The sheriff of Buncombe County released Joe who returned to Madison County where he lived until his death. On Founders Day 1932 a memorial for Joe (#26) was unveiled with ceremony on the campus in a grove near today's Dormitory Drive.

The opening of the school in September 1856 to the closing in 1863, reflect the promise and difficulty faced by the new institution. On its opening as the only known private school in Madison County, the French Broad Baptist Institute joined the thirteen schools operating in

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thirty-two school districts in the county. The enrollment in the public schools was 1,371, a number less than one-half of the school-age population of 3,003 (McLeod, 15). William Albert Gallatin Brown, a graduate of Mossy Creek Baptist College in east Tennessee, was the first president.<sup>12</sup> He and P. W. Anderson, also a graduate of Mossy Creek, comprised the faculty of the new school and were faced with placing students with widely varying degrees of learning into classes and undertaking their instruction. The number of students in the first years is not known; however, in this initial period of operation the school is said to have enrolled students "from twelve counties in western North Carolina and from South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia." Enrollments were so heavy that boarding students were unable to find places in the homes near the school and by the outbreak of the Civil War a large frame dormitory and a teacherage had been added to the campus (Carter, 16-17). The student body was also made up of persons of varying ages, including adults who sought to take advantage of this early well-organized opportunity for education. In 1858 Mr. Brown resigned his post and he was succeeded by John B. Marsh, who came to the school from Binghamton, New York.

John B. Marsh (1830-1903) oversaw both the development of the curriculum and the change of the school's name to Mars Hill College under which style it was chartered by the North Carolina General Assembly on 16 February 1859. He resigned as president in February 1861 on the eve of the Civil War, although the school year did not end until 4 July. The student body in that last antebellum year numbered 102. Mr. Marsh was succeeded by Pinkney Rollins, a son of the Reverend Thomas Jefferson Rollins, chairman of the board of trustees and later a pastor of the Mars Hill Baptist Church. The school operated during the first two years of the war, but with a much reduced enrollment largely of female students. Mars Hill College closed at the end of the spring 1863 session (Carter, 21).

The history of Mars Hill College from 1863 into 1890, when Thomas McDowell Hufham took up the duties of president, is one of mixed circumstances and limited advancement. During the last years of the Civil War the brick main building and the college's two residential buildings are said to have been occupied by Confederate troops, with the two frame buildings being lost to arson on 8 March 1865.<sup>13</sup> From 1874 to 1876 the brick school building was used as a western branch of the Masonic Order's Oxford Orphanage. Through the years it functioned as an educational institution Mars Hill College was headed by a succession of presidents who struggled against circumstance to keep the school open. In this effort they were assisted by a number of the original trustees who refused to see the school they established in 1856 fail.

The brick building suffered despoliation during the war; however, two rooms were repaired and put into condition for use as classrooms by June 1865 when Mars Hill College reopened. Forty-six students were enrolled with Pinkney Rollins and F. P. McGee as their teachers (Carter, 28). Mr. Rollins's Unionist sympathies effectively precluded his retaking the office of president and in April 1866 John Ammons was elected to the post.

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John Ammons (1831-1914) was the first of twelve presidents who held the reins of the school in the closing decades of the nineteenth century, up to Mr. Moore's arrival, and like most of this group he saw much of his effort to advance the prospects of the school frustrated. While there was no lack of students to be educated, the reduced fortunes of the region kept the school in straitened circumstances. Parents had little cash for tuition and boarding their children, and, in turn, the school had insufficient income to enlarge its faculty, rebuild the college library that was effectively destroyed during the occupation, and improve its facilities. From 1866 until a second brick building (#3) was erected, Mars Hill College operated in the one antebellum classroom building. Mr. Ammons's success was circumscribed also because of his own limited education, which consisted of two years' instruction as an adult student at Mars Hill where he had enrolled in 1858, married and the father of three children. He resigned in February 1868.<sup>14</sup>

For three years, from 1868 through spring term 1871, the school was headed by Meriwether Lewis (1802-1882) whose three daughters and son, Meriwether Lewis, Jr., taught classes at Mars Hill (Carter, 30-32, McLeod 85-87). Mr. Lewis, who Professor McLeod describes as a Presbyterian, did not hold the office of president of the school. Instead he served under the nominal president, John Robert Sams (1848-1937), a son of the Reverend Leroy Sams. Mr. Sams operated the school for another year, 1871-1872, with the teaching assistance of James Bassett Lunsford and support from the Peabody Fund, an educational philanthropy. In a report to the Western Baptist Convention in September 1872 the status of Mars Hill College was described in three terse sentences "Mars Hill College is dormant. It ought not to be so. It is a center of great importance to the denomination" (McLeod, 90).

The decade of the 1870s continued as one of uncertainty for the future of the school. For two years the brick building apparently stood unused. Late in 1874 the building came to be used as a western branch of the Oxford Orphanage operated by the Masonic Order with John Robert Sams as steward under Superintendent J. H. Mills of Oxford. After a year Mr. Sams was succeeded by J. H. Moore; however, the experiment with this western branch of the orphanage soon failed (Carter, 33-35). In 1876 the college trustees allowed James Bassett Lunsford to operate a private subscription school in the brick building, which he continued into 1878. In 1878 the trustees reopened Mars Hill College with James Frank Tilson (1856-1918) in charge. He remained at the helm of the school for three years about which little are known, except that "he kept a flickering light burning on the Hill" (McLeod, 102-03).

During this period the Western Baptist Convention, an organization of Baptist associations in western North Carolina formed in 1844 (or 1845) as a regional coequal with the Baptist State Convention and the governing body of Baptist churches in western North Carolina, was pressing for the opening of a second Baptist-affiliated school located at Hendersonville, in Henderson County. Plans for the Western North Carolina Female College were laid by the convention in the late 1850s and by 1860 a three-story stone building was well under construction in

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Hendersonville. Work was suspended during the war and not taken up again seriously until the mid 1870s when the property was placed under the auspices of the Western Carolina Educational Company. The Baptist elders in western North Carolina had decided to invest their energies in the Hendersonville school. In January 1879 Judson High School, a coeducational school, was opened in the partially-completed building with William Albert Gallatin Brown, the first president of Mars Hill, as its principal. It thrived for a period but persistent indebtedness forced Judson to close permanently in about 1891 (McLeod, 92-95). Mars Hill College also faced nearby competition for students from Weaverville College in Weaverville, a few miles south of Mars Hill.

Mars Hill College survived but made little institutional progress under Mr. Tilson. In February 1880 the college trustees agreed to rent the east second story room and a small adjoining room to the Mars Hill Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, for ten years for the payment of \$1.00 per month in money or repairs (McLeod, 107). A year and a half later, in September 1881, the "Trustees met for the purpose of reviving an efficient High School according to the recommendation of the French Broad Baptist Association" (Trustees minutes cited in McLeod, 108). Tuition for the primary department was set at \$5 for the five-month session and at \$7.50 for students in the intermediate department for the same period. Advanced classes were also to be offered in "Algebra and advanced Branches of Mathematics, General History, Composition & Rhetoric, Metaphysics, & Natural Sciences, etc." at \$10 for the five-month session. The trustees established 17 October 1881 as the opening date for the fall-winter session, and they elected William Patterson Jervis (ca. 1845-1925) as president and professor of mathematics, and James Bassett Lunsford as professor of natural sciences and English branches.

Having fixed the curriculum, the trustees turned to repairs on the brick building and in May 1882 agreed to convey one-half interest in the site and immediate setting of the building and absolute ownership of the lodge's second-story meeting rooms to the local chapter in exchange for significant repairs to the building (McLeod, 109). This arrangement remained in force until about the turn of the century. Mr. Jervis remained in charge of the school until resigning in summer 1888. He was succeeded by Zebulon Vance Hunter (1855-1912) who has been described as "poorly equipped for the office in training, culture, temperament, tact, or ability" (Carter, 39). By spring 1890 Mr. Hunter had incurred so much criticism that he was "allowed" to close the school on 28 March 1890, several weeks short of the usual end of the spring term (McLeod, 115). Meanwhile, in January 1889, the trustees had rented the west second-story room in the brick academy building to the local Farmers Alliance for \$12 per annum (McLeod, 109). Presumably all classes were taught in the building's two first-story rooms.

Both of Mars Hill College's historians, Edward Jennings Carter and John Angus McLeod, described the board of trustees meeting on 1 April 1890 as one of the most momentous in its history. Three of the trustees present, Edward Carter, Thomas Shepherd Deaver, and Jesse

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Woodson Anderson, had been founders of the school. The situation which arose with Mr. Hunter and the lack of visible progress in the 1880s convinced them and the others present that the survival of the school required a renewed financial commitment on their part and a concerted effort to hire well-qualified educators to operate the school. A motion was passed requiring each trustee present to raise \$50 for the support of the school (Carter, 40-41, McLeod, 115-17).

The best intentions of the trustees bore fruit in the hiring of Thomas McDowell Hufham (18\_\_-1909), a graduate of Wake Forest College, in May 1890. Mr. Hufham had a short successful tenure of three years at Mars Hill when his teaching was supplemented by that of professor John Ellington White (1868-1931), who would later serve as president of Anderson College in Anderson, South Carolina, and Miss Helen McMasters. Messrs. Hufham and White also supported the reorganization of the school's existing literary society into two new societies, the Euthalian and the Philomathian societies, that remained influential at Mars Hill through the first decades of the twentieth century. The initiative and energy which Mr. Hufham brought to his work at Mars Hill saw its expression in the construction of a second brick classroom building, today's Founders Hall (#3). Work on the building began in 1891 and in 1892 it was placed in partial service while incomplete. The building stood unfinished on 4 May 1893, when Mr. Hufham resigned as president, but the trustees pushed the completion of the building in time for the fall 1893 session at Mars Hill. At the end of 1891 the trustees had also entered into an agreement with the local public school authority to educate children living in the Mars Hill area district at a rate of \$70 per month. While later modified this agreement remained in force until 1905 (McLeod, 138).

Professor Hufham's departure from Mars Hill came largely as a result of the trustees's inability to pay his promised salary, and a lack of income, from tuition and donations, would keep the college in straitened circumstances into the opening years of Mr. Moore's tenure as president. In fact, the obligation to Mr. Hufham was not paid until June 1896, three years after his resignation and departure for Hickory, North Carolina, where he practiced law until his death.

From spring 1893 into spring 1897 five men succeeded each other as president of Mars Hill College. John Morgan Cheek (1868-1959), the first of the quintet and a graduate of the University of North Carolina, served as president for but one year, May 1893 into May 1894. However, in that brief tenure he oversaw the printing of the college's first catalogue, comprising nine pages in paper covers and listing the school's five faculty members in addition to himself as an instructor in Latin, Greek, and English. Professor McLeod's summary of the catalogue provides one of the first documented accounts of the offerings of Mars Hill.

The catalogue published by Mr. Cheek shows a well-organized curriculum, which compares favorably with the curricula of the best academies and smaller colleges of the time. Latin was required in all four years of the academic department. Work

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in the upper classes included readings from Vergil, Livy, Horace, and the *Novum Testamentum*, with grammar, sight reading, and composition. Greek was required in the last three years of the classical course, the offering in the fourth year being four books of the *Iliad* and the Greek New Testament, besides prosody and grammar. Other courses offered in the upper classes included English and American literature, history of English and American literature, rhetoric, etymology, French, medieval and modern history, geometry and trigonometry, psychology and logic, chemistry, astronomy, geology and physiography. The program of studies was divided clearly into a preparatory department and a four-year academic department. The latter was subdivided into two courses, a classical course, and a scientific course, both of which were the same for the freshman and sophomore classes but were different for the junior and senior years. In his forward to the catalogue, Mr. Cheek states that the aim of the school is to prepare students for further study in colleges and universities or to fit them for life. He announces also that on the satisfactory completion of the classical or scientific course a student will be granted a certificate, which until further announcement will carry no academic degree (McLeod, 142-43).

Mr. Cheek was succeeded as president in 1894 by James H. Yarborough (1831-1897), who was then an instructor in mathematics, science, and history at Mars Hill, where his daughter May Yarborough (ca. 1862-1898) taught music and French. Mr. Yarborough resigned at the end of 1894 and was succeeded by Charles Patrick Sapp (1873-1905), an 1893 graduate of Wake Forest College, who remained head of the school through the spring term of 1895. The Reverend Adonnas Everett Booth (1876-1939) was elected president of Mars Hill College in April 1895 and served one academic year. His tenure is remembered for two events, his publication of the school's second catalogue for the 1894-95 year, and the start of construction of a girl's dormitory, later known as the Spilman Home for Girls, which was incomplete on his departure. Mr. Booth was succeeded in office by M. A. Maury, who likewise served for one year.

### The Presidency of Robert Lee Moore, 1897-1938

In spring 1897 as the trustees of Mars Hill College were considering the future of the school, Bernard Washington Spilman (1871-1950), field secretary for the Sunday School department of the North Carolina Baptist Convention, was visiting western North Carolina. Following a stop at Big Ivey Church, Mr. Spilman accompanied Jacob Sams to Mars Hill where he met with other trustees of the school including John Robert Sams. During their conversations Mr. Spilman made a recommendation to his fellow Baptists that would come to assure the future of Mars Hill College. His endorsement of a friend from their days at Wake Forest College was recounted later: "If you can lay your hands on a tall young man down the hill by the name of R. L. Moore, you will be on the high road" (McLeod, 165). Since graduation from Wake Forest in 1892,

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Robert Lee Moore had been serving as principal of Amherst Academy in Morganton, North Carolina. Mr. Spilman apparently knew that Mr. Moore had become frustrated in his efforts to advance the educational program at Amherst. The trustees apparently did not take up Mr. Spilman's recommendation immediately and, instead, on 19 May they elected George Wharton, a Baptist minister then resident in Waynesville, as president. Fortunately for Mills Hill College, he declined their offer. Within days the trustees turned to Robert Lee Moore.

Robert Lee Moore (1870-1949) was a native of western North Carolina, having been born at Globe, Caldwell County, into the fifth generation of the Moore family to make their home there. After attending a family-operated school he entered the Globe Academy in 1882 where he studied under the legendary educator Robert Logan Patton (1849-1920). In 1888 he left the academy for Wake Forest College, but took time off and taught at Globe, Valle Crucis, and Amherst before returning to Wake Forest where he graduated in 1892. On 11 June 1895, about midway in his tenure at Amherst, Mr. Moore married Edna Corpening (1876-1950), the eldest daughter of Albert Gallatin Corpening, a prominent planter in Caldwell County. Mrs. Moore had also been a pupil of Mr. Patton. On Saturday, 11 June 1897, Mr. Moore left the Corpening house and set out for Mars Hill where he spent the night at the home of John Robert Sams. On Sunday he attended services at the Mars Hill Baptist Church, met residents of the village, and looked over the college's two brick buildings and the unfinished frame building, begun during Mr. Booth's tenure, which had passed out of college ownership. On Monday he had his interview with the trustees. That afternoon he is said to have written his wife, "I am now the president of Mars Hill College" (McLeod, 167)<sup>15</sup>.

Robert Lee Moore and his wife, who worked tirelessly at his side through their entire married life, committed themselves, their energies, and their future to Mars Hill College. By the time he resigned the position forty-one years later, on 11 June 1938, he had been president of the college for half of its existence. The length of his tenure was indeed one accomplishment, but his real achievement was the survival of Mars Hill College and its advancement to accredited junior college status. The very existence of Mars Hill and the erection of many of the buildings in this district are the result of his championing of the school and recognizing its potential.

Robert Lee Moore went about his work immediately and produced a small six-page catalogue for his first year at Mars Hill, 1897-98. His clear forthright approach to education is simply stated under a three-letter heading, "Aim."

Mars Hill College is not a Business High School. . . . is not a Military Academy. .  
. . is not a lot of things, and it does not claim to be what it is not. But there is a  
positive side. It does hope to accomplish three things:

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1. To prepare thoroughly for the higher institutions of learning in the State.
2. To give a practical course of training suited to that large class of students who will never have the opportunity of going to higher institutions.
3. To offer to teachers a select course in Theory and Practice of Teaching, History of Education and Methods.<sup>16</sup>

These three goals, and a fourth--to improve the education of young men who would later enter the Baptist ministry, governed virtually every decision Mr. Moore made as president and they reflect his equal concern for each student who entered the doors of Mars Hill. Those who had the means and ability to continue their schooling at another, higher institution would be well-prepared to succeed, and thus bring credit to their experience at Mars Hill; those for whom study at Mars Hill was destined as an end in itself would be equipped to lead useful, productive, satisfying lives in their community; and those who would become teachers would be well-prepared to honor that high calling and the responsibility it then represented.

Robert Lee Moore utilized every means at his disposal, bringing a high degree of professional expertise to his leadership of Mars Hill while cultivating both personal and professional relationships for the benefit of the school. In this he was both typical and exemplary of his time, sharing these instincts with educational leaders in North Carolina including Charles B. Aycok, Charles McIver, and others responsible for the great advances in public education in the state in the first decades of the twentieth century.

Realizing the benefits to both college and community, he was a strong local advocate for public education in Madison County. He also well understood the merit of school consolidation whereby better facilities and teachers improved on the one- or two-teacher field school system. By 1900 the seventy-nine schools recorded in 1890 had been consolidated into fifty-seven schools of which one was of brick construction, eleven were log, and forty-five were frame buildings. Having seen Mrs. Moore teach the public elementary students at Mars Hill for two years, 1900-1902, honoring the school's agreement with the local school authority, Mr. Moore supported the construction of a public school in Mars Hill, a three-room frame building built in 1904, while he served also as superintendent of Madison County schools from 1903-1905.

Later, as the movement to improve public high schools increased throughout the state, he lent influence and energy to the cause while supporting the Mars Hill High School (NR, 2005) that was completed on Bailey Street and opened in 1926. He cultivated donors whose generosity to Mars Hill College continued through his tenure and beyond, and he sought to expand the



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geographic representation on the board of trustees throughout western and piedmont North Carolina. Gradually Mr. Moore strengthened the commitment of the North Carolina Baptist Convention to Mars Hill College, securing a series of endorsements, grants, and loans that enabled the school to expand its course offerings, enlarge and improve its faculty, and greatly increase the physical facilities of Mars Hill. In 1923 the college charter was amended to allow the Baptist State Convention to appoint the members of Mars Hill's board of trustees. This broadened the denomination's control over the school and heightened its responsibility for Mars Hill's progress. Today the Baptist State Convention continues to appoint the college trustees.

The improvement of facilities at Mars Hill came hand-in-hand with advances in the curriculum, expanded course offerings, a better-educated faculty, and the even more difficult task of creating an endowment for the school. On Mr. Moore's arrival he was faced with virtually no money in the school coffers and the indebtedness incurred by the trustees who had sought temporary solutions to the harder tasks of fund raising. The problem with the incomplete frame building at the west edge of campus, which had passed from college ownership, was resolved in 1899 when Mr. Spilman purchased it, finished it as a summer residence, and then rented it for college purposes. In January 1901 it became the first boarding house for girls on campus, and in December of that year Mr. and Mrs. Moore occupied rooms in the house where they resided until 1913. In 1903 Bernard W. Spilman deeded the house to the school as a memorial to his only son Raymond Pollock Spilman (1901-1902) (Madison Deeds, 45/237). In a December 1902 letter to Mr. Moore, he described it as "a Christmas present to the girls of Mars Hill College" and asked that it forever be known as the Raymond Pollock Spilman Home for Girls (McLeod, 191). Another degree of success also came his way. In 1902 he reflected on the school's accomplishment during the previous academic year.

Last year it sent more than 20 young men and women to higher institutions; it furnished teachers for 50 public schools, reaching through them more than 3,000 of our mountain boys and girls; it aided in the training of 17 young men who are to be our future pastors, and left its impress upon scores of others whose influence will be felt in every phase of church work. And we are only at the beginning (McLeod, 192).

Bernard Washington Spilman would remain a life-long friend of Mars Hill College; his name is remembered today in Spilman Hall (#9). In 1899 Mr. Moore initiated another friendship through correspondence which reaped continual rewards for Mars Hill. In February 1900 Milo Clinton Treat (1841-1925), a long-time benefactor to Baptist causes, accepted Mr. Moore's invitation to Mars Hill and came to look over the school. Later that year he made the first of a series of gifts to Mars Hill that culminated in a donation of \$50,000 in 1923 (see #23) and eventually totaled over \$100,000. His generosity first saw expression in a donation of \$2,000, to be matched, for the construction of the Treat Annex to the Spilman Home. The Treat Annex, a two-story shingle-

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clad building designed by Richard Sharp Smith of Asheville, was completed in 1906 and stood at the north end of the Spilman Home where it housed a dining hall, kitchen, laundry, and assembly room. While the annex was under construction, Mr. Treat offered to donate another \$2,000, also to be matched, for the construction of a boy's club facility. The challenge was met, a lot acquired for the building on the north side of the quad from F. A. and Nannie R. Clarke (Madison Deeds, 25/153), and construction began in 1906 on the Treat Dormitory (#9). The gambrel-roof, three-story on basement boys dormitory was completed in 1907. Meanwhile, Mr. Moore had launched construction of yet another building on the original quadrangle. After his proposal to link the original antebellum building with the 1892 building failed in 1903, Mr. Moore mounted a campaign to erect an auditorium building on the east end of the campus. Dr. Albert Erskine Brown, a son of the college's first president and superintendent of mountain missions and schools for the Home Mission Board of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention, laid the cornerstone for the auditorium in 1905; it was completed in 1906.

As Dr. McLeod writes in *From These Stones*, 28 August 1907 was "a red-letter day at Mars Hill" (McLeod, 211). Speeches were the order of the day as the college celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, fifty years after the end of the school's first academic year, 1856-57, and the French Broad Baptist Association celebrated its centennial. In the late afternoon or evening, Albert Erskine Brown was the honorary speaker at the dedication of the four recently-completed buildings on the campus of Mars Hill: the Spilman Home (which was pulled down by 1937), the Treat Annex (which was destroyed by arson in 1977), the auditorium (which burned in 1961), and the Treat Dormitory (#9). Mr. Moore could look with pride to other achievements in his first decade as president. Enrollment had risen from 183 students in 1897 to 352 in 1907, the number of boarding students had increased from 81 to 268 during the same period. While the student body had hailed from six counties in 1897, it represented a diversity of forty-two counties in 1907.

Mr. Moore did not rest, and the next year he initiated efforts leading toward the construction of a new brick building that would house administrative offices, classrooms, and the college library. On 4 May 1908 the trustees approved a request for the design of the building whose plans were produced by Martin Egbert Parmalee of Knoxville, Tennessee. The site of the building, a lot on the north side of the quadrangle, west of Treat Dormitory, was purchased on 18 May 1908 from J. S. and Katie Bruce (Madison Deeds, 25/151). The building (#8) was completed in 1909 and placed in service in January 1910. With its completion the college's original, deteriorated antebellum brick building, was demolished, and its site incorporated into the landscaped quadrangle. The "General Plan of the Campus," reflecting this proposed enhancement, was published in the December 1910 issue of the "Mars Hill College Quarterly."

The purchase of lots for Treat Dormitory and Moore/Marshbanks Hall in 1906 and 1908, respectively, was part of a series of acquisitions initiated during president Moore's tenure which

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greatly enlarged the grounds of the school. The first of these came in November 1901 when John Robert Sams and his wife, Lodusky Dothula (Carter) Sams, conveyed a tract of just over six acres bordering the original quadrangle on its south and west sides (Madison Deeds, 15/179-81).<sup>17</sup> The college made two important acquisitions in the 1910s. In February 1911 the college acquired a rectangular tract lying to the near west of the quadrangle and along the east side of Gabriel's Creek, comprising about 4.25 acres, from Ashbel Ovidius Carter and his wife for use as athletic fields (Madison Deeds, 43/464). The property remains in that use to the present. In January 1915 property belonging to S. M. and Martha M. Riddle, located on the east side of the quadrangle and containing a twenty-room hotel, a store building, and a small cottage, became available and was acquired by the college with the support of a \$3,000 gift from Rivermont Baptist Church, Lynchburg, Virginia (Madison Deeds, 32/167). The hotel was put to use as the Rivermont home for boys while the store building was fitted up as the Oscar E. Sams Dining Hall in honor of Mr. Sams, a native of Mars Hill then serving as pastor of the Rivermont Church (McLeod, 216). (Those buildings were replaced on the lot in 1973 by Cornwell Hall.)

The use of these buildings was seen by Mr. Moore as a temporary solution to college needs, and he continued in his efforts to build up the campus with permanent buildings that met the needs of increasing enrollments through the 1910s and early 1920s. In this the college enjoyed the philanthropy of the men and women, living beyond Mars Hill and Madison County, who Mr. Moore had cultivated as friends of Mars Hill College. The need for a permanent library building was answered in 1917 when Colonel Henry Montague of Winston-Salem offered to erect a building in honor of his wife. C. Gilbert Humphries, a Winston-Salem architect designed a small building (#2) of striking stone masonry construction that was completed in 1919 and dedicated in 1920 in honor of Estella Nissen Montague. Enlarged in 1933, the Montague building would serve as the college library until 1955 and the completion of Memorial Library (#20).

Between 1920 and 1925 the campus of Mars Hill College gained four new buildings and a major addition to an existing dormitory. As the student body increased, both in its number and in the geographic extent from which students came to Mars Hill, Mr. Moore and the trustees realized that improved accommodations were necessary to house the rising tide and to appeal to prospective students. The decision was made to expand the existing Treat Dormitory (#8), to essentially double it in size, and convert it to a girl's dormitory. It was renamed Spilman Hall, to perpetuate the spirit of Mr. Spilman's gift in 1903, and has carried that name to the present. The former Spilman Home and Treat Annex on the west edge of the quadrangle were simply refitted as dormitories for male students who were also housed in the Rivermont building.

Mr. Treat took no umbrage whatsoever at the removal of his name from the old Treat Dormitory, and in 1923 he offered the college a gift of \$50,000 for a new boys' dormitory to be matched with an additional amount to be raised by the college for a girls' dormitory. The college borrowed the \$50,000 match. The construction of these buildings marked the college's first step

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beyond the precincts of the original quadrangle, to the hillside south of the antebellum campus. In 1923 John Robert Sams conveyed his interest in a seventy-five-acre tract on the south side of the Marshall Road that included the north face of Little Mountain (Madison Deeds, 49/3). Martin Egbert Parmalee and his sons then prepared plans for a two-story dormitory which was replicated for the two dormitories, Melrose and Brown Halls (#22-23), located on the north-facing foot of Little Mountain. In 1925 the college erected a two-story frame house as the residence of Philip Lovin Elliott, the vice-president, on a rise south of and behind Melrose and Brown Halls. Facing north into the campus grounds, with Little Mountain behind it, Edgewood House (#24), is the southernmost college building on the campus.

A fully-equipped gymnasium had become a pressing need at the college as enrollment increased through the 1910s and it became more so in the early 1920s. In 1919 William C. McConnell, an Asheville businessman and trustee, gave \$1,000 towards a gymnasium; however, the project languished until 1923 when plans for the building that became McConnell Gymnasium (#6) were prepared by Smith & Carrier of Asheville. Completed in 1924, except for the swimming pool in the basement that was not finished until about 1932, McConnell Gymnasium became the third building in the tier along the north side of the antebellum grounds. A decade would pass before another building, the Robinson Infirmary (#4), would be built on the campus.

The building-up of the Mars Hill College campus in the 1910s and 1920s occurred while important advances were being made in the administrative structure and curriculum of the school, developments that led to the school's accreditation as a junior college in 1926. Through the course of the 1910s Mr. Moore saw the important strides being made in public education throughout North Carolina, and he was an instrumental figure in those occurring in Madison County. Likewise, he understood the profound impact a better educated populace would have on his own institution. Through steps large and small, he guided Mars Hill College forward. The first step came after the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools voted in 1914 to recognize junior colleges and to admit them into the association. In May 1916 a specially appointed study committee recommended to the college trustees that Mars Hill progress to junior college status (McLeod, 227). This process included both improvements in the scope and quality of course offerings and the academic credentials of the faculty, as well as upgrades in the holdings of the library and other facilities. The matter of an endowment was also a critical consideration.

Mr. Moore had begun this work even before the committee made its report. In 1915 he named Joseph Bascom Huff (1879-1944) the first dean of the college and made Miss Maude Memory the first dean of women. Mr. Huff served in this position until 1923 when he was succeeded by Philip Lovin Elliott who in 1925 became vice-president of the college. Also in 1925, Mrs. Flora Harding Eaton, who had previously served as a dean of women, was named the college's first registrar. These officials, working with Mr. Moore and others, including a series of faculty

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committees, came to constitute an improved administrative structure that oversaw the school's transition to a full-fledged junior college. Members of the first known buildings and grounds committee were appointed by the trustees in April 1920, and thereafter this committee oversaw construction on the campus. In 1928 Bryson H. Tilson was hired as superintendent of buildings and grounds and served in that position until his promotion to director of campus planning in about 1967.

Having been a college in name since 1859, Mars Hill College enjoyed its recognition, at long last, as a college in fact. In 1921 the college catalogue was issued with "A Junior College" under its name on the title page. On 5 May 1922, the college awarded an "Associate in Arts" diploma to McKinley Landers. This was both the only diploma awarded that year and the first junior college diploma awarded by the school. Mr. Landers had been one of only four junior college students at Mars Hill during the 1921-1922 academic year. Enrollment in the junior college department increased steadily through the 1920s. In the 1925-1926 year a total of 245 students were in the junior college class and in May 1926 sixty-four were graduated. In 1926 the school began operating as a four-year junior college, offering the last two years of high school work and two years of college. This curriculum held in place until 1939 when all high school work was discontinued and the school operated as a two-year junior college (McLeod, 228).

Mars Hill College's new status as an accredited junior college was one laurel Mr. Moore could wear, another came in 1927 when Wake Forest College awarded him an honorary doctor of education degree. Through the late 1920s he oversaw the school's continuing progress, and in the early 1930s he guided the school through a period of difficulty experienced by many colleges during the Great Depression. Two small construction projects were completed during this period: the swimming pool was finished and put in use in 1932 in the basement of McConnell Gymnasium (#6) and an ell addition was built on the east end of the Montague Building (#2), providing much-needed library space.

Conditions began to improve at the college late in 1933, and Dr. Moore and the trustees began looking forward to a series of overdue projects. By coincidence, the death of Dr. William F. Robinson, the college physician, in 1933 prompted the construction of the first of two new buildings at Mars Hill in the 1930s. His widow donated \$2,500 for the construction of a much-needed infirmary. This building, the Dr. W. F. Robinson Memorial Infirmary (#4), also launched Asheville architect Henry Irvan Gaines's career here as school architect. Designed as a pendant to the Montague Building, it was completed in 1935 and dedicated at spring commencement. The larger endowment and building needs of the college were combined into a campaign that came to be known as the "Enlargement Program of the College." It was launched at Founders Day, 12 October 1935. Hoyt Blackwell, director of the campaign, presided over a luncheon, with Senator Josiah W. Bailey as speaker, at which over \$20,000 was raised (McLeod, 241-42).

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In retrospect, Hoyt Blackwell's direction of the college's Enlargement Program, a role he accepted at the request of Dr. Moore, marked the beginning of a change in the direction of the college. Dr. Moore was then sixty-five years old, and in choosing Hoyt Blackwell to head up the campaign, he was effectively anointing Mr. Blackwell as his successor. Hoyt Blackwell (1890-1970) had first come to Mars Hill as a student in 1919. He returned to teach Bible and Greek in 1928 after his graduation in 1925 from Wake Forest and in 1928 from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Mr. Blackwell took easily to the responsibility and soon plans were being laid for a new girl's dormitory while a crew headed up by Bryson H. Tilson, head of buildings and grounds, was completing the amphitheater (#7). While Dr. Moore had long championed the addition of any new buildings to the west end of the existing tiers of buildings on the north and south sides of the quadrangle, Mr. Blackwell looked further into the future and understood the need to expand beyond the established grounds. He cast his eye to the north, to the hillside behind a Carter family residence, the William Connor house, fronting on Main Street. With the support of members of the buildings and grounds committee, the college acquired a tract of nearly six acres on the north side of Bailey Street in June 1937 from Ashbel Edward Carter (Madison Deeds, 59/609). This property included the Carter family cemetery where Edward Carter was buried. The graves were moved to the Mars Hill Cemetery. The design of the building, to be named in honor of Edna Corpening Moore, was Henry Irven Gaines's second project at Mars Hill and he completed the plans by mid-August. The spare Georgian Revival-style building (#12) was completed and dedicated on 25 May 1938 during spring commencement. Built at a cost of over \$87,000, exclusive of furnishings, it represented the most ambitious project to date at the college, and effectively launched the modern building program at Mars Hill.

### The Presidency of Hoyt Blackwell, 1938-1966

By long practice the trustees held their spring meeting at commencement, and in 1938 they convened on 26 May. Not unexpectedly, they received Dr. Moore's letter of resignation, to be effective on 11 June, and they unanimously elected Hoyt Blackwell to succeed him, to take office on 12 June (McLeod, 244-47). The next year, on Founders Day 1939, Mr. Blackwell presided at the ground-breaking for the new science building (#20). Named for Charles Moses Wall, its principal benefactor, it was dedicated on Founders Day 1940. Flush with success, Mr. Blackwell and the trustees pressed ahead and engaged Mr. Gaines to design another girl's dormitory, an ell addition to Edna Corpening Moore Hall. Completed in 1941, and named in honor of Mrs. Rush Stroup of Shelby in 1946, it was the last building erected before the building restrictions imposed during World War II.

The war years represented a period of flux at Mars Hill College, as they did at most educational institutions. A total of 896 students were enrolled at the college for the 1941-1942 academic year, of whom 490 were men and 406 were women. The size and character of the student body

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changed through the course of the war. During the 1943-1944 year 690 students were enrolled of whom 506 were women and only 184 were men. Following the war men returned to the campus and enrollment came to exceed the pre-war figure in 1946-1947 (McLeod, 254). One sure lesson of the period was the need for more dormitory space for female students.

When World War II ended, Mr. Blackwell and the trustees moved forward with plans for new buildings, and on 25 August 1945 the board authorized the buildings and grounds committee to proceed with a new girl's dormitory. In March 1946, the college acquired the site of the building, immediately west of Moore and Stroup Halls, from Ashbel Carter and his wife (Madison Deeds, 73/356). The purchase also included their house and an outbuilding (#14-15). Mr. Gaines provided the plans for the building and ground was broken in spring 1946. Huffman Hall (#13), named for Robert Obediah Huffman (1890-1978), a prominent textile and furniture executive of Morganton, was dedicated at Founders Day 1947. Providing accommodations for about 133 girls, its construction costs were more than double those of the college's major pre-war buildings and signaled a new era and scale of fund-raising for future buildings. Founders Day 1947 was also an anniversary for a second major building at Mars Hill. Ground was broken for a new dining hall designed by Henry Irven Gaines that was a memorial to Coyte Bridges (1897-1917), a former student and a son of James B. Bridges (1857-1923) of Catawba, North Carolina. Dining services, located in the basement of Spilman Hall since 1921, were relocated to the new building that was placed in service on Thanksgiving Day 1948 and dedicated in 1949.<sup>18</sup>

While Dr. Moore's resignation in 1938 had marked the end of an era, he had remained a highly visible figure on campus, teaching mathematics for some time, lecturing on occasion, and maintaining an office into the 1940s. Mrs. Moore served as the college bursar into the late 1940s, having been the first and only person in the college's history to hold that position. Robert Lee Moore died on 16 December 1949 and was buried in the Mars Hill Cemetery. Mrs. Moore died two months later, on 14 February 1950, and was buried beside her husband. They had been a presence at Mars Hill College for fifty-three years.

The decade of the 1950s saw the construction of three important buildings on the campus which answered long-felt library and residential needs. Two of the buildings, Memorial Library (#20) and Myers Hall (#21), were begun in 1954 and completed in 1955, while the third building, the Robert Lee Moore Auditorium, outside the historic district, was begun in 1959 and completed in 1961. Meanwhile, the Mars Hill Baptist Church undertook and completed a new sanctuary and classroom building on a lot about one block north of its 1918 church. That building (#10), standing next to Spilman Hall and between it and its pastorium (#11), became redundant and the church property was acquired by the college in May 1953, before the new church was actually completed (Madison Deeds, 83/620-21). The former church was then used as a college chapel and the pastorium occupied by college staff.

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The three buildings erected in the 1950s followed the precedent of Mr. Gaines's earlier buildings here and featured the spare modern Georgian styling that had become his signature on the campus. While a fund had been established in 1946 to erect a new auditorium in Dr. Moore's memory, it grew slowly and had only reached about \$200,000 by 1950. While fund-raising for it continued, an anonymous donor had come forward in 1953 and offered to contribute \$250,000 towards a new library if the college raised an equal sum for another building. Mr. Gaines prepared the plans for the two buildings simultaneously, and the contracts for both were let in April 1954. Memorial Library (#20) and Myers Hall (#21), a boy's dormitory named for Charles Burette Myers (1889-1950), were completed and occupied in 1955 (McLeod, 260-61). With these buildings in hand, college officials, alumni, and the trustees redoubled their efforts and raised the necessary monies to place the Robert Lee Moore Auditorium and Fine Arts Building under construction in May 1959. It was completed and dedicated over an expanded three-day Founders Day celebration in 1961.

Just as accreditation as a junior college was a major achievement for Dr. Moore in his long career as president of Mars Hill, the school's advancement to senior college status was the crowning success of Mr. Blackwell's twenty-eight-year presidency. The initiative began in 1956 when a committee was appointed by the Baptist State Convention to study its institutions in North Carolina. In May 1959 the committee presented its findings and recommendations to the convention. "That the trustees of Mars Hill College, in light of increased enrollment pressures, the need for a more accessible Baptist senior college in the west, the physical plant at Mars Hill, and a relatively stable faculty, proceed to convert the school into a senior college as soon as it seems desirable and possible to do so" (McLeod, 265).

Later that May the Mars Hill trustees appointed a special college committee, including trustees, Mr. Blackwell and members of the faculty including John Angus McLeod, and representatives of the alumni, to proceed with the necessary curriculum study to implement the conversion. After working over two years, the committee established the courses and requirements for four degrees: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Music, and Bachelor of Music Education. This information was published in the catalogue for the 1962-63 academic year. A junior class was added in fall 1962 in which 172 students enrolled. A senior class was added in fall 1963 with 158 students out of a total enrollment of 1,288 students. On 31 May 1964 Miriam Carolyn Jones of Belmont, who held the highest grade point average in the senior class, became the first person to receive a bachelor's degree from Mars Hill College (McLeod, 266). Three years later, in 1967, after an institutional self-study, Mars Hill College was recognized as a senior college by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Meanwhile, the college had achieved another milestone in educational history, and it was proceeding with new facilities. In September 1961 Mars Hill College became the first Baptist-affiliated college in North Carolina to enroll a Black student as a full-time undergraduate. The



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honor went to Oralene Graves of Asheville, a great-great-granddaughter of the slave Joe who was held as security in the 1850s until the trustees had settled their debt with the contractors who erected the school's first building (McLeod, 268)<sup>19</sup>. She graduated in 1963 with a two-year degree. On Founders Day 1963 a new women's dormitory, Fox Hall, was dedicated in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Grover Fox of Hickory. Planning also advanced for the construction of a new gymnasium and adjoining athletic fields and a new men's dormitory; however, their completion would occur after Mr. Blackwell's retirement.

### Mars Hill College 1966-2006

Robert Lee Moore was sixty-seven years old when he retired in 1938 after forty-one years as president of Mars Hill College. Hoyt Blackwell, his successor, remained in office as president through 30 June 1966, when he retired at the age of seventy-five, two months short of his seventh-sixth birthday. Like Dr. Moore he, too, remained close to the college and retired to a house, designed by Six Associates, at the east edge of the historic district, in the southwest corner of Dormitory Drive and South Main Street. He was succeeded by Dr. Fred Blake Bentley (1935-2004), a native of Roanoke, Virginia, who graduated from Baylor University (1958), Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (1960), and Indiana University (1962) where he received a doctorate in education.

Fred Blake Bentley was thirty years old when he became president of Mars Hill College on 1 July 1966, and he remained president for thirty years, retiring in 1996, becoming the third of three men who served as president of the college for a total of ninety-nine years. He remodeled Edgewood House (#24) as his residence, and built the adjoining garage (#25). Chambers Gymnasium, named in honor of Walter Roy Chambers of Marion and designed by Six Associates, was completed and dedicated in 1967. Meares Athletic Fields, adjoining the gymnasium, were also placed in service and dedicated in 1967. Gibson Hall, a men's dormitory designed by Six Associates was completed in 1969. Both of those buildings stand on grounds adjoining the historic district as do two buildings completed in 1973, Cornwell Hall and the Wren College Union, both designed by Six Associates. For some time the need for a central administration building was felt at the college. The loss of the old Treat Annex to the Spilman Home to fire on 2 March 1977 made available a critical site at the heart of the campus. The plans for Blackwell Hall (#5) were completed later that spring by Six Associates, and the building was dedicated on Founders Day 1978 in honor of Hoyt Blackwell. Dr. Bentley oversaw the completion of the Harris Media Center and the Broyhill Chapel in 1981 and 1989, respectively. The final major building project of his tenure was the building of Pittman Dining Hall, completed in 1994, and the renovation of the former Coyte Bridges Dining Hall as the Renfro Library.

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Dr. Bentley retired in February 1996 and he was succeeded by Dr. A. Max Lennon, a 1960 graduate of Mars Hill College who received his bachelor and doctoral degrees from North Carolina State University in 1962 and 1970, respectively. Dr. Lennon resigned in 2002 and was succeeded by Dr. Dan Gay Lunsford, the current president. Dr. Lunsford (b. 1947), who served as dean of the School of Education and Leadership at Mars Hill, was also a graduate of Mars Hill, in 1969, and he received his masters and doctoral degrees from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in 1971 and 1980, respectively. In August 2004 Mars Hill College received a Campus Heritage Grant, in the amount of \$125,000, from The Getty Foundation. The grant supported research on the oldest buildings (#2-4, 6, 8-11) in the historic district, the development of a preservation plan for those buildings, a policy and procedures manual to govern ongoing work on the college's historic buildings, and an educational component. The contract for this work was awarded to Harris Architects of Brevard. As part of the grant, the college hosted a Campus Heritage Preservation Conference on 10-12 July 2005. During the most recent academic year, 2005-2006, Mars Hill College had 989 day students enrolled in courses and 319 students enrolled in continuing education courses.

### ENDNOTES TO HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND EDUCATION CONTEXT

1. *Biennial Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, of North Carolina, for the Scholastic Years 1896-'97 and 1897-'98*. Raleigh: Guy V. Barnes, Printer to the Council of State, 1898. 660-61. For education in North Carolina in the antebellum period see chapters nine and ten in *Ante-Bellum North Carolina* (1937), 259-308.
2. In 1857, the year after the French Broad Baptist Institute opened, the Federal period brick building at Newton Academy was replaced by a larger brick academy building. The new antebellum building was successful at the site by yet another school building, erected by the Asheville city school system and known as Newton School, which was in operation in the 1920s when Dr. Sondley was writing his history.
3. For the career of Mr. Adams and his work as an educator see "The Rev. Stephen D. Adams" in *The Heritage of the Toe River Valley, Volume I*, 1994. Brief biographical sketches of Messrs. Price and Thomas also appear in the book. The history of the academy, which continued in operation toward the end of the nineteenth century, remains to be written.
4. The college adopted the name Lenoir in honor of the gift of lands by Walter Lenoir on which it was established. The addition of Rhyne to form a hyphenated name honors Daniel Efird Rhyne (1852-1933), a wealthy Lincoln County industrialist and a major benefactor of the college.

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5. The school is named for Mrs. S. P. Lees, a major benefactor, and Mrs. Elizabeth A. McRae who taught in summer schools at Banner Elk under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church.
6. For a brief account of Mr. Dougherty's career see O. Lester Brown, "Blanford Barnard Dougherty," in *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*. Vol. 2, 96.
7. The two principal textual sources for the history of Mars Hill College in the preparation of this nomination are "A History of Mars Hill College," a master's thesis written by Edward Jennings Carter, a grandson of Edward Carter, and submitted in 1940 to the faculty of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and John Angus McLeod's centennial history of the college, *From These Stones*, published in 1955 and reprinted in a revised edition in 1968. Throughout the course of the nomination project, Richard Sams Dillingham, a long-time historian of Mars Hill College, has facilitated my work with his encouragement and continually-generous research assistance. Phyllis Stiles, director of Corporate and Foundation Relations for Mars Hill College, also responded generously to questions on matters that fell within her purview.
8. Edward Carter was the son of Daniel (17\_\_-1837) and Margaret (Jennings) Carter and the grandson of Edward and Mary (Brown) Carter of Virginia, who migrated into western North Carolina in the later eighteenth century and settled on the waters of Little Ivy Creek. According to a family account Edward and Mary Carter were here by 1800 and established on lands that in 1833 became a part of Yancey County. Edward and Clarissa Carter's first two sons, James Manning Carter and Daniel Burdette Carter, did not survive childhood, and both were dead by 1850.
9. Thomas Washington Ray was married to Hannah Carter (1817-\_\_\_\_), the younger sister of Edward Carter. They were the parents of thirteen known children of whom ten lived to adulthood.
10. The principal source, at present, on the work of Mr. Clayton and Mr. Shackelford is the anonymous typescript account held in the vertical files of the Asheville-Buncombe Public Library, Asheville, NC. The files also include an account of Mr. Clayton written by F. A. Sondley, dated 14 July 1928, which appears to be largely based on Mr. Clayton's obituary which was hand-copied by Mr. Sondley from an unnamed Asheville newspaper of 10 August 1892.
11. The event, repeated from the account in McLeod's history, was also noted in John C. Inscoc's *Mountain Masters: Slavery and the Sectional Crisis in Western North Carolina* (1989), 82. The Madison County Miscellaneous Records in the North Carolina State Archives contain several documents pertaining to the suit brought by Messrs. Clayton and

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- Shackleford against the school trustees in 1856 to recover an indebtedness of \$2,500 and damages of \$500. The last is dated 1859; however, the settlement papers are not among the group.
12. For the career of Mr. Brown see John R. Woodward, "William Albert Gallatin Brown," in *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, Vol. 1, 250.
13. The circumstances of the occupation of the college buildings by troops remains to be firmly established. Accounts, which appear to reflect partisan points of view as well as fact, have become a part of local folklore. Tensions in the area had been high since the Civil War began, between those who held and continued to hold Union sympathies, and troops of the Sixty-Fourth North Carolina Regiment, six of whose companies were principally raised in Madison County. Because of Madison County's location on an important road linking western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee, companies of this regiment were stationed in and around Madison County through much of the war. Feelings rose to a fever pitch in the winter of 1863 when Confederate troops, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel James A. Keith (1824-\_\_\_\_), a Madison County native and a son of the Reverend William Keith, killed thirteen prisoners on 19 January 1863 in a desperate act that came to be known as the Shelton Laurel Massacre. The thirteen were suspected of having been involved in a raid and robbery in Marshall; however, Augustus S. Merrimon reported on 24 February 1863 to Governor Zebulon Vance that probably eight of the group had no involvement in the incidents, that they had had been taken from their homes without resistance, and all were executed without a trial. Seven of the thirteen were members of the Shelton family and bore that surname, including thirteen-year-old David Shelton, who was not involved in the raid. Governor Vance subsequently called for Keith's resignation; however, he continued in service. The accounts of the Shelton Laurel Massacre and events that occurred on the campus vary, reflecting the differing perspectives of those who held Union or Confederate sympathies as well as legends and mythologies that later came to surround those events. The two matters that all seem to agree on is that damage was done to the brick building and that the two frame buildings burned on 8 March 1865. For the letters of Mr. Merrimon to Governor Zebulon Vance and Governor Vance's subsequent letters on the subject see *The War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series I, Vol. 18, pp. 881, 893, 897-98, and 909. See also Walter Clark, ed., *Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina in the Great War 1861-'65*, Vol. 3, 659-661.
14. For the life of John Ammons see Henry S. Stroupe, "John Ammons," in *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, Vol. 1, 31-32.

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15. For the life and career of Robert Lee Moore see Clarence Dixon Creasman, *Moore of Mars Hill* (1950), and Evelyn Underwood, "Robert Lee Moore," in *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, Vol. 4, 306-08.
16. *Announcement, Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, N.C., 1897-1898*. N.p.: n.d. In the catalogue Mr. Moore outlined the history of the school, courses of study, and boarding arrangements. Tuition for the four stated courses of study, primary, advanced, academic, and collegiate, were \$1, \$2, \$3, and \$4 per month, respectively.
17. This parcel had actually figured in an exchange of property in 1874 when Mr. and Mrs. Sams had exchanged it for a rectangular lot, comprising the east end of the original college quadrangle; however, the exchange had not been confirmed by deed. The east end of the original 1856 college lot was later acquired by S. M. Riddle and brought back into college ownership in 1915.
18. Coyte Cornelius Bridges (1897-1917) was the only child of James B. Bridges (1857-1923) and his first wife, Margaret Cornelius (1862-1897), who died two months after giving birth to their son. Mr. Bridges married a second time, to Laura Wilson (1860-1941). At his death he left his entire estate, except for \$3,200 in bequests, to Mars Hill College, subject to the life estate of his second wife, who died on 26 April 1941. The estate was estimated at \$25,000 to \$30,000. Thus the building which came to bear Mr. Bridges's name was erected thirty years after his death. The Bridges family is buried in the cemetery at Catawba Methodist Church, Catawba County, North Carolina.
19. For a fuller discussion of the Baptist response to desegregation in North Carolina see Mark Newman, "The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and Desegregation, 1945-1980," *North Carolina Historical Review*, LXXV, no. 1 (January 1998), 1-28.

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### Architecture Context and Significance

Like most of the other private colleges in present-day Western North Carolina, including Belmont Abbey College in Belmont, Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory, Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, Warren Wilson College in Asheville, Brevard College in Brevard, and Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, Mars Hill College had its origins in a small denominationally-related school that evolved both academically and architecturally through time to the institution it is today. These schools, together with those from which both Appalachian State and Western Carolina universities and the University of North Carolina at Asheville developed, were small institutions established largely for a regional student population. All responded to circumstances, needs, and opportunities and progressed from a form of today's high and preparatory schools to junior colleges, then to senior college status, and in the cases of Gardner-Webb, Appalachian State, Western Carolina, and UNC-Asheville, to university status. Within this context, only Belmont Abbey College, founded in 1876 as a monastery and school with the strong support of the Benedictine Order, the Catholic Church, and its vast institutional philanthropy, built large, substantial, and imposing buildings early in its history. With Father Michael McInerney (1877-1963) as resident monk architect, the college continued to build in the Gothic-influenced Benedictine style through the opening decades of the twentieth century. With fourteen contributing buildings, the Belmont Abbey Historic District (NR, 1993) holds national significance in the area of architecture for its extraordinary collection of American Benedictine style educational and institutional buildings. The Belmont Abbey College district is one of two located west of the Catawba River in North Carolina that comprises an historic college campus listed in the National Register. The other, the Black Mountain College Historic District (NR, 1983), with an exceptional group of International Style buildings designed by A. Lawrence Kocher and built in the 1940s, also lies outside the conventional patterns of academic architecture in Western North Carolina.

Mars Hill College, like other denominationally-affiliated schools in Western North Carolina, built as well as its circumstances would allow throughout its history, beginning in the mid 1850s when it opened as the French Broad Baptist Institute. Doing so, it followed the pattern seen elsewhere in the Piedmont and Eastern North Carolina. The antebellum financing available for the main building at Peace College (NR, 1973), a grand four-story Greek Revival/Italianate-style building at the Presbyterian-sponsored school in Raleigh, and the imposing three-story Greek Revival-style building erected by Presbyterians for the Concord Female College (later Mitchell College, NR, 1980) in Statesville, was not available in antebellum Madison County. Wealthy planters and businessmen supported those antebellum educational projects in the Piedmont, just as they had Davidson College a generation earlier. Edward Carter and his fellow sponsors of the French Broad Baptist Institute could best be described as prosperous farmers. The two-story, five-bay brick main building erected by Messrs. Clayton and Shackleford on the four-acre Mars

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Hill campus was modest in comparison to its exact contemporaries in Raleigh and Statesville, however, like them, it held pride of place in its community, equal in status if not costliness.

For the first fifty-four years of its existence, from the opening of the school in 1856 until its demolition in 1910, the original antebellum brick building stood at the heart of the college, and for most of this period it was the single building housing the classroom and administrative functions of the school. For a brief period, from ca. 1860 to 1863 two frame residential buildings supplemented facilities in the brick building; however, both were lost to fire in March 1865. From 1865 until 1892, it stood alone. In the later year a smaller two-story, five-bay brick building, built on a center-hall plan with classrooms to either side on both stories, and now known as Founders Hall (#3) was placed in service. From 1892 until 1901 these two buildings constituted facilities at Mars Hill College. During this period as before, students lodged either with families in the growing village or in boarding houses. In January 1901 a two-story frame house at the west edge of campus was placed in service as the college's first boarding house for girls. In December of that year, Robert Lee Moore, the president of the college, and his wife occupied rooms in the building which was given to the college in January 1904 and became known as the Spilman Home for Girls.

Within the space of three years, three additional buildings were added to the campus: the two-story frame Treat Annex to the Spilman Home containing a dining hall, kitchen, laundry, and assembly room, a brick auditorium building erected at the east end of the college quadrangle, and Treat Dormitory (#9), a three-story boys dormitory on the north side of the college grounds. These last three buildings and the Spilman Home for Girls were all dedicated on 28 August 1907.

In the summer of 1907 the half-century old college consisted of six buildings, four of brick construction and two of frame fabric. Of these six, two brick buildings, Founders Hall (#3) and Treat Dormitory (#9) survive. The deteriorated antebellum main building was pulled down in 1910 and the Spilman Home for Girls was demolished by 1937. The auditorium was lost to fire in 1961 and the Treat Annex likewise burned in 1977. Between 1910 and 1955 ten major brick or stone buildings were built on the campus to serve a range of educational and residential purposes. All of these survive (as does the 1948 Coyte Bridges Dining Hall which was much remodeled and expanded in 1994-96 as the College library and stands immediately outside the district).

What sets Mars Hill College apart, architecturally, in the context of its own history and that of like institutions in Western North Carolina, is that the historic district includes all of the buildings erected in the history of the institution during its period of significance, 1856-1955, except the afore-named (and the former Coyte Bridges Dining Hall). This high survival rate is one important architectural distinction, and one believed to be enjoyed by no other college or

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university of nineteenth-century origin in Western North Carolina except probably Belmont Abbey College. This survival of a large and important group of educational buildings also comprises, with Belmont Abbey College, one of the two oldest such groups of buildings erected for higher education in the state west of the Catawba River and continuously used by their respective institution.

The factors of age and exclusivity are important indeed as qualifiers of significance; however, they also contribute to the higher importance of the Mars Hill College Historic District. Namely, the district and its buildings, occupying grounds of just over twenty-seven acres, represent a rare perspective and a unique insight into the modest yet proud architectural origins of church-supported institutions of higher education in Western North Carolina. The resources in this district and their relationship to each other represent the particular architectural history of this institution, but they possess a larger metaphorical value as the reflection of the common image of a group of sibling institutions which, through stronger growth, fire, and other circumstances, have individually lost so much of the earlier architectural fabric on their respective campuses. Here, in effect, in buildings dating from 1892 to 1955 on grounds in use since 1856, can be read the common experience of struggle, ambition, and achievement shared by some half-dozen other denominationally-affiliated schools. Growth and academic advancement came to Mars Hill College, as they did to other colleges in the region. But here, to a remarkable degree, and owing to circumstances particular to a college which had but three presidents over a period of ninety-nine years, from 1897 to 1996, the architectural fabric of institutional history was preserved and remains an important part of students' everyday experience

The survival of the historic resources in this district at Mars Hill College owes both to fate and decision making. In the flush decades of the early twentieth century, particularly the 1920s, and continuing into the 1930s when building costs were lower, many colleges and universities in North Carolina undertook expansive building programs that largely reshaped the physical appearance and architectural character of their respective institutions. Some schools relocated to entirely new campuses during this period. Catawba College, affiliated with the Evangelical and Reformed Church (now United Church of Christ), closed in Newton, relocated some fifty miles east to Salisbury, and reopened in 1925 on a campus that was built up in the later 1920s and early 1930s. In Raleigh Baptist-affiliated Meredith College abandoned its nineteenth-century Victorian buildings and grounds adjoining the Executive Mansion and relocated to a new Georgian Revival-style brick campus in west Raleigh in 1926. The best-known example in this series of projects is the grand Gothic Revival-style West Campus of Duke University in Durham. The result of two major building projects between 1927 and 1939 and the work of Philadelphia architects Horace Trumbauer and Julian Abele, the West Campus had a classical counterpart in the enhancement of the older Colonial Revival-style East Campus. At the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill paired newly-defined quadrangles were enhanced by a series of Classical and Georgian Revival-style buildings. At Misenheimer, in Stanly County, Methodist affiliated



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Pfeiffer Junior College (NR, 1999) was rehoused in a complement of new imposing Georgian Revival-style brick buildings designed by Otis Clay Poundstone, an Atlanta architect, who was also engaged in campus rebuilding work at Bennett College in Greensboro. At Banner Elk, Lees-McRae College was newly housed in a handsome group of Rustic-style stone buildings erected in the 1920s to plans by Donald Richard Beeson of Johnson City, Tennessee.

The impulse to rebuild was felt in Mars Hill as well in the period following the 1923 gift of seventy-five acres on the south side of the existing campus. In 1924-25, M. E. Parmalee and Sons prepared a grand Beaux-Arts-style plan for rebuilding the school. The variant T-form of the design was anchored by the quadrangle at its base where four symmetrical buildings were centered in each side of the rectangle. Moore Hall (#8), flanked by McConnell Gymnasium (#6) and Treat Dormitory/Spilman Hall (#9) on its west and east sides, respectively, was retained; however, the other three buildings on the quadrangle would have been new buildings. The Estella Nissen Montague Building (#2), Founders Hall (#3), the brick auditorium on the east side of the quad as well as the nineteenth-century Spilman Home and the Treat Annex on the west end would have been removed and replaced by symmetrical, classically-styled buildings. The upright stem of the "T" was a causeway spanning the low ground on the south side of Cascade Street (now occupied by the Pittman Dining Hall outside the district). It would have linked the new building on the south side of the quadrangle with a grand grouping of seven Georgian-style buildings symmetrically positioned in an arc forming the top of the "T." This group of buildings, centered by an imposing multi-story administration building with a giant order portico, was aligned near the base of Little Mountain and below the plateau on which Melrose and Brown Halls were rising.

When the Parmalee firm's proposal was published in the *Mars Hill Quarterly* in May 1925 it was above a caption reading "Our Architect's Dream of Mars Hill College." It was a dream, indeed, and one well beyond the fortunes of the small college. The extent to which the scheme was considered by Mr. Moore and the trustees is not known. In the event no part of it was implemented. Instead, Mr. Moore continued along the path he had initiated in the early twentieth century, using and reusing the existing buildings, all but two of which he had been instrumental in securing for the college. By 1932 Mars Hill College had a new architect, Henry Irvan Gaines of Asheville, who would remain the official school architect until 1970. He, too, demonstrated a respect for the historic fabric of the college in the design of a series of buildings erected between 1935 and 1955 that complemented the college's earlier buildings.

In the siting of these buildings the Mars Hill College presidents, members of its buildings and grounds committee, and its architects followed the precedents seen on other campuses in North Carolina and the larger Southern region where order and presence were gained through the refinement and development of the quadrangle as a principal campus space. While the quadrangle has a long history in campus design, deriving in part from its use as a central feature

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in monasteries adopted by the important English universities, among others, it came relatively late to North Carolina. Its appearance as a clearly defined and landscaped space dates generally to the early twentieth century, as here at Mars Hill, when lawns and grounds were enclosed by the mostly symmetrical positioning of new buildings in often pendant or complementing relationships. Symmetrical plantings, brick, stone, and concrete walks, walls, and lighting standards often enhanced the buildings' relationships to each other and contributed to the character and appeal of the quadrangle as a campus amenity. This new attention to campus grounds arose in conjunction with the increasing, professional role of architects and trained landscape architects in campus planning.

The development of campus grounds in Western North Carolina, the state, and the nation was also assisted by other professionals, namely nurserymen and plant growers, whose numbers also increased in the early twentieth century. The enhancement of the grounds at Mars Hill in the early 1910s followed on a consultation with the Biltmore Nursery Company in Asheville. In December 1910, the year Moore/Marshanks Hall (#8) was placed in service, the *Mars Hill Quarterly* published the newly-devised "General Plan of the Campus" together with a short paragraph-length explanation.

The Landscape Gardener has shown us how our school grounds ought to look . . . . Full blue prints have been prepared by the Biltmore Nursery, with planting and working plans carefully given. We now have something definite to work to. And money is needed as well as muscle and time before we realize the full effect of the plans. It will take \$187 to pay for the shrubbery, flowers, and trees called for by the plans. It is possible that part of this may be left off for the present, but the grading, walks, and seeding of the lawns needs immediate attention. With no funds in hand to press this work, volunteer help on the part of the students and citizens of the community must be relied upon.

Similar work was executed on other campuses in North Carolina, including the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where a series of architects was involved in the definition of the university's two appealing quadrangles, McCorkle Place and Polk Place, and the design of buildings lining their perimeters. At Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory, a fire in January 1927 that destroyed the eccentric Second Empire-style Main Building of 1892-93 was the agent of change. When the Daniel Efird Rhyne Administration Building was rebuilt on its site in 1927-28, the old axial drive leading up to the lost building and its front lawn were reshaped as a rectangular quadrangle with the Rhyne Building having a place of honor on the northeast side of the tree-planted green. Paired, simply-detailed modern Gothic-style dormitories were built on the northwest side and in 1943 the Gothic-styled Carl Augustus Rudisill Library was completed on the southeast side. The southwest side, fronting on today's Seventh Avenue, N.E., was open and centered by the college's formal entranceway.

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Toward the mid-twentieth century changing concepts in campus design and/or expanding academic requirements also came to affect the shaping of collegiate grounds in Western North Carolina. The rectangular quad was loosened to an elegant oval in a plan devised for Gardner-Webb College in 1947 by the Shelby architectural firm of (Frederick W.) Van Wageningen & (Thomas W.) Cothran. Soon the E. B. Hamrick Building (NR, 1982), built in 1925 (and the college's oldest surviving building), gutted by a fire in 1937, and rebuilt in 1942-43, was joined by a sequence of Colonial Revival-style buildings.

The Mars Hill College Historic District and its resources reflect both important and representative examples of architectural design that were common to both church-related and public college campuses in Western North Carolina and the state from the late nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. The buildings at Mars Hill College, and other smaller colleges, were erected on a different scale than like buildings for the same purposes erected at the state's larger colleges and universities. In the matter of style, its buildings reflect the transition from the oftentime workmanlike buildings of the nineteenth century, seen in Founders Hall (#3), to the two predominant styles for architect-designed academic buildings of the first half of the twentieth century, the Classical and Colonial/Georgian revivals. Buildings in the district also represent important examples of the less-frequently-seen Tudor Revival style in Moore/Marshbanks Hall (#8), the Rustic style rendered in stone masonry in the Montague Building (#2) and the Robinson Memorial Infirmary (#4), and the Moderne style Wall Science Building (#19).

Although Founders Hall (#3) has been adapted through the course of continuous use from 1892 to the present, its simple single-pile plan and elevations have remained intact, and the building recalls the modest nineteenth-century character of academy buildings in the region. Excepting some buildings of uncertain, unconfirmed date at the abandoned Weaverville campus of Weaver College and the early Benedictine buildings at Belmont Abbey College, Founders Hall is the oldest known surviving college building in Western North Carolina. Virtually all such small, secondary classroom and office buildings at the region's colleges have been lost or replaced by much larger buildings.

The symmetry of antebellum educational buildings, usually finished in the Greek Revival or Italianate style, was continued in new dress in the early twentieth century when both the Classical and Colonial Revival styles were adopted in North Carolina as throughout much of the nation. The gambrel-roof Treat Dormitory (#9) of 1906-07 is the earliest known surviving example of a Colonial Revival style college building in Western North Carolina. Other early examples of the style are known to have been built, including the two-story frame Oakview Dormitory for girls at Lenoir College, occupied in September 1902, but they are lost. When Highland Hall, a three-story brick boys dormitory was built at the Hickory school in 1906-1907, an exact contemporary with Treat Dormitory, the symmetrical, corresponding window openings

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on its eleven-bay façade and other elevations were finished with arched heads and drip moldings typical of the Italianate style. It remains in use, the oldest building on Lenoir-Rhyne's campus grounds.

Through the opening decades of the twentieth century the Colonial Revival took on different forms for educational buildings. The plain, almost austere design of Melrose and Brown Halls (#22-23) was one such. And its sometimes eclectic character was often succeeded by buildings of greater formality and academic exactness oftentimes described as Georgian Revival, as seen at Pfeiffer University in buildings dating from the mid 1920s to the late 1940s and the post-World War II campus of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem. At Mars Hill College, Henry Irven Gaines ushered in a somewhat hybrid form of the Colonial Revival, which was infused with a certain spare contemporary quality, in his 1937 design for Edna Corpening Moore Hall (#12). He continued this formula with slight variation in his design for the Stroup addition to Moore Hall in 1941, Huffman Hall (#13) in 1946, and the 1954 designs for Memorial Library (#20) and Myers Hall (#21). Mr. Gaines's design for the library at Brevard College as well as his and Six Associates' work at Western Carolina College in the 1940s and 1950s continued this period design combination of the contemporary and traditional.

The usually symmetrical college buildings designed in the Colonial and Georgian Revival styles had their counterpart in a similar group of Classical Revival buildings which were usually designed with giant order porticos and often with arched or Palladian windows. The Louis Round Wilson Library at Chapel Hill, dating from the late 1920s and one of the costliest examples of the style, in North Carolina, is axially positioned at the southeast end of the Polk Place quadrangle. The Administration Building at Meredith College, also an axial centerpiece building of the 1920s, was likewise designed with a portico and dome, as was the Baldwin Auditorium, also dating to the mid 1920s, on the East Campus of Duke University. McConnell Gymnasium (#6) at Mars Hill, designed by Smith and Carrier of Asheville in 1923, reflects the unusual application of the Classical Revival style to the design of a gymnasium, and it is one of the very few if not only such example in North Carolina. This singular status carries inside to the basketball court which is certainly one of the very few if not only such college athletic space of its type and date to survive to the present in the state. (No comprehensive statewide survey of college gymnasiums has been conducted.) The Music Building completed in 1926 at Davenport College in Lenoir is one of the few stylistic counterparts to the gymnasium in Western North Carolina, where the Classical Revival style was adopted more often for religious buildings like the former Mars Hill Baptist Church (#10) designed by Martin Egbert Parmalee of Knoxville, Tennessee.

The Colonial/Georgian Revival and Classical Revival styles dominated college architectural design in North Carolina through the first half of the twentieth century with little exception but for the grand Gothic Revival West Campus of Duke University. The Gothic Revival or

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Collegiate Gothic appeared on few other campuses in the state in the design of important individual buildings such as the Daniel Efird Rhyne Administration Building of 1928 at Lenoir-Rhyne College and its Carl Augustus Rudisill Library of 1942-43. Buildings in the generally contemporary Tudor Revival style, including the YMCA Building at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, of 1907 by Frank Pierce Milburn and Moore/Marshbanks Hall (#8) designed in 1908 by Martin Egbert Parmalee and completed at Mars Hill in 1909, are also rare in the state.

In Western North Carolina the early-twentieth century Arts and Crafts Movement gave rise to imaginative architectural design and construction that utilized local materials. Stone quarried from hillsides, gathered from fields, and taken up from river and creek beds, found wide usage throughout the region from the 1910s through the 1930s, particularly after the massive stone masonry Grove Park Inn was completed in Asheville in 1913. Native woods were also favored in the period, and handled in a number of ways including bark covered logs, limbs, and twigs for construction and decorative features, chestnut bark for exterior sheathing, and sawn woods used individually or with others of contrasting or complementing grain and color for interior flooring, sheathing, and finishing features. This use of local stone and wood produced an important group of Arts-and-Crafts-influenced Rustic style buildings that were mostly residential in character. Many were year-around residences; however, the probably larger number were seasonal cottages erected for those who spent their summers at the region's resorts. At Linville a number of chestnut bark or shingle-covered cottages stand together with the All Saints Episcopal Church designed by Henry Bacon and completed in 1913 and the rebuilt Eseeola Lodge of 1937 (NR, 1979). In Highlands the construction in 1925 of the Baldwin-Coker Cottage (NR, 2003), designed by architect James John Baldwin for his family, initiated a series of similar Rustic-style summer cottages, including Cabin Ben (NR, 2003), erected by local builder Joe Webb.

While stone was used for a number of permanent and seasonal cottages in the Arts and Crafts and Rustic modes, including the Godfrey-Barnette Cottage (NR, 1993) in Brevard, it was utilized often in the construction of churches and schools in Western North Carolina during the 1910s, 1920s, and 1930s. Crossnore Presbyterian Church (NR, 1996) in Avery County, completed in 1926, is one well-known example, while the ca. 1930 Abernethy Memorial United Methodist Church in Rutherford County is one of many standing in the region which remain to be documented. Schools and educational buildings were also built of stone in the Rustic manner and in other styles, particularly during the 1930s when federal assistance programs including the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) supported, sponsored, and built an important group of buildings through the region. Examples include the Mars Hill High School (NR, 2005) which was completed in 1938 and stands a few blocks northwest of Mars Hill College. The construction of the Brevard College Stone Walls and Gate (NR, 1993) of 1936-37 was also supported by the WPA and featured rounded rock gathered from the nearby Davidson River.

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The pair of stone Rustic style buildings at Mars Hill College comprise one of two important groups of such college buildings in Western North Carolina from this period. The Estella Nissen Montague Building (#2), designed in 1917 by Winston-Salem architect C. Gilbert Humphries and dedicated in 1919, is among the earliest stone masonry educational buildings, either public or private, and it anticipates the dozens which followed in the next two decades. Its bold stone masonry, with deep-set mortar giving the impression of a dry-laid stone building, is unlike Mr. Humphries' many other known buildings, mostly residences for wealthy social and business leaders in Winston-Salem. While stone might have been utilized for the next-built buildings at Mars Hill College, in the 1920s, it was not. But at Banner Elk, in Avery County, the campus of Lees-McRae College, was rebuilt and housed in a group of five large impressive stone buildings designed by Donald Ray Beeson of Johnson City, Tennessee, and built in the 1920s. The decision to erect a second rustic stone masonry building at Mars Hill in the 1930s appears to have been a conscious one intended to provide a complement to the Montague Building. The infirmary erected as a memorial to the college physician Dr. W. F. Robinson (#4) was the first building on the Mars Hill campus designed by Henry Irven Gaines (1900-1986), an Asheville architect who would serve as college architect until 1970. Building restrictions imposed during World War II and the changed circumstances of the post-war period effectively ended Rustic stone construction for academic buildings in Western North Carolina. The buildings at Mars Hill and Lees-McRae represent a short-lived but significant moment in the region's architectural history.

In the event Mr. Gaines was soon the designer of another building on the Mars Hill College campus, the Charles M. Wall Science Building (#19), that was completed in 1940 and presaged the direction of post-World War II college architecture. Mr. Gaines had introduced a modern sensibility in his design for Edna Corpening Moore Hall (#12) in 1937 and he advanced the contemporary aesthetic further in the Moderne style of the Wall Building two years later. Its styling would prove to be a one-time venture at Mars Hill; however, it reflects the character of other college work that Mr. Gaines and Six Associates executed in the 1940s and 1950s including the Science and Classroom Building for Western Carolina College, Cullowhee, which features bold horizontal banded fenestration. Placed in service in 1940, fifteen years before the end of the period of significance for the Mars Hill College Historic District, the Charles M. Wall Science Building is a stylistic coda here and a touchstone for a modern design aesthetic which would figure prominently in collegiate architectural design through the mid-twentieth century.

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### 10. Geographical Data

#### UTM Reference - continued

E. 17 359715 3965515

#### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Mars Hill College Historic District is defined on the accompanying map of the historic district prepared by Greg Cloos, Cloos Landscape Architecture, Horse Shoe, North Carolina, 2006.

#### Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the site and setting of the historic resources comprising the district and where possible follows legal property lines, topographical lines, street edges, and other historical and physical features.

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### Schedule of Photographs

1. Name of property: Mars Hill College Historic District
2. County and State: Madison County, North Carolina
3. Name of photographer: Davyd Foard Hood
4. Dates of photographs: 24-26 October 2001\* and 23 May 2006 (as noted)
5. Location of original negatives: Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina

### List of Photographs

- A. Oblique view of Treat Dormitory/Spilman Hall (#9) and former Mars Hill Baptist Church (#10), looking southeast.
- B. Oblique view of Estella Nissen Montague Building (#2), with northeast corner of Founders Hall (#3), looking southeast.
- C. Oblique view of Founders Hall (#3), looking southeast, 23 May 2006.
- D. Oblique view of Dr. W. F. Robinson Memorial Infirmary (#4), with southwest corner of Blackwell Hall (#5), looking southwest.
- E. Blackwell Hall (#5), east elevation, looking west.
- F. Landscape view, with Mountain Heritage Cabin (#18) in middle ground and McConnell Gymnasium (#6) on right, looking north, 23 May 2006.
- G. Campus view, with McConnell Gymnasium (#6) left, Moore/Marshbanks Hall (#8) center, and Blackwell Hall (#5) right, looking east.
- H. Oblique view of Amphitheater (#7), with Moore/Marshbanks Hall (#8) on left and east elevation of McConnell Gymnasium (#6) on right, looking southwest.
- I. Oblique view of Moore/Marshbanks Hall (#8), looking northwest.
- J. Pastorium (Jarrett House) (#11), looking north.

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- K. Edna Corpening Moore and Stroup Halls (#12), south elevation, looking north.
  - L. Huffman Hall (#13), south elevation, looking north/northwest.
  - M. Charles M. Wall Science Building (#19), east elevation, looking west, 23 May 2006.
  - N. Landscape view, with Memorial Library (#20) in middle ground and Myers Hall (#21) in background, looking south, 23 May 2006.
  - O. Brown Hall (#23), south elevation, looking northwest, 23 May 2006.
  - P. Edgewood House (#24) and its garage (#25), looking south.
  - Q. Memorial for "Joe the Slave," looking south, 23 May 2006.

\*The initial field recording for this nomination was undertaken in 2001. Through the course of research and composition the condition and status of the resources were monitored. The appearance and integrity of the resources remains intact and they are accurately represented in the photographs taken both in 2001 and 2006 for this nomination.